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UKRAINE

questions and answers

ПРОЛЕТАРИИ ВСЕХ СТРАН, СОЕДИНЯЙТЕСЬ!
УКРАИНСКАЯ Р.С.Р.

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Hundreds of thousands of foreign guests annually visit the USSR, including Ukraine. Naturally, they display great interest in new aspects of the country's life, particularly in restructuring of socioeconomic activities, in the policy of openness and democratization. The publication offers answers to questions most frequently asked by foreign citizens during their stay in the Republic as well as to the questions put in the letters of Radio Kiev listeners, subscribers to the newspapers "Visti z Ukraini" and "News from Ukraine" being published by the Ukraina Society (Association for Cultural Relations with Ukrainians Abroad). This book also contains the information pertaining to the most important aspects of Ukraine's history and present stage of development, in particular, the Republic's achievements in economic, social and spiritual spheres.

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The first edition of this book was published in 1982, and since that time, the cardinal changes have taken place in Ukraine same as elsewhere in the Soviet Union. The April (1985) Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee initiated the revolutionary processes in this country which are known today to the whole world as "perestroika"(restructuring). It gained an even greater momentum after the 27th CPSU Congress, the 19th Party Conference and the First Congress of People's Deputies.

The essence of perestroika was formulated by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet M. S. Gorbachev during his meeting with the working people of Lviv in February, 1989: "Man shall be placed in the center of all changes in economy, political process and spiritual sphere. We need perestroika for the benefit of people".

Thanks to the efforts of communists and all working people it has become possible to stop the country's slipping down to economic, social and spiritual crisis. Nowadays, we know our past, understand the present and see the future far better than before. There occur profound changes in the entire complex of political institutions while the role of the Soviets of People's Deputies and state bodies is being defined in a cardinally new way. Some changes have been introduced into the USSR Constitution, several important enactments have been passed. Democratization keeps penetrating into the activity of such public organizations as trade unions, Young Communist League (Komsomol), women's councils, creative unions, associations of veterans, etc. It is envisaged to carry out a comprehensive reform of legislation.

The policy of perestroika meets the socioeconomic requirements of all Soviet people and becomes the sphere of their practical activity. Life itself proves that the main direction of economic reform has been chosen correctly. The changes taking place in the country imply, first and foremost, the switchover from administrative to economic methods of management, comprehensive introduction of cost accounting, self-financing and self-administration. All this provides work collectives with new real rights, with the feeling of responsibility.

Spiritual life of the country has become much more interesting and diverse. The Soviet people shake off apathy and estrangement inherent in the period of stagnation. Democratization, glasnost, assertion of truth have generated a powerful flow of new thought, emotions, initiatives, they improve social atmosphere, release the people's creative activities, stimulate social activities. The number of "white spots" in elucidating the history of Ukraine and the USSR as a whole keeps decreasing, mass media openly and frankly discuss the pressing issues of socioeconomic policy, in particular those of ecology, national relations, language, creative unions, the so-called nonformal associations, and so forth.

Perestroika also exerts a positive influence upon the course of world events. The efforts of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government, based on the new political thinking, enjoy an ever growing support of progressive people all over the world.

The authors aimed at presenting a comprehensive picture of today's life in Ukraine, they made an extensive use of statistical data to demonstrate the course of perestroika with one Union Republic as an example. A solid foundation was laid in the Ukraine's economy at the first stage of economic reform for successful solution of the most important issues of perestroika, for enhancing the people's well-being. The rates of national income growth, industrial output and labor productivity have considerably increased in the Republic. Fundamental changes take place in agriculture as well. Perestroika helped stimulate the activities in agrarian sector, offered wide opportunities for wide-scale application of progressive forms of labor organization and payment.

However, quite a few problems still exist in the Republic's economy. Production capacities of light and food industries are introduced at a slow rate. Financial position of many collective and state farms remains unstable. The growth of wages and salaries outstrips the rate of labor productivity increase. Food supply problem is one of the most acute ones in the USSR, Ukraine included. Over the last three years, the output of grain, vegetables, meat, eggs and other agricultural products somewhat grew in the Republic but such a growth was only good enough to compensate for the increment in population. Housing is another acute problem here. Over the said period of time, the housing conditions in Ukraine were improved for 5 million people but the problem is far from being completely solved. Urgent measures are taken in the Republic to raise the efficiency of consumer and health services, enhance the development of mass physical culture.

Hard and troublesome was the history of the Ukrainian people. Today, the Republic is included in all existing atlases but once there existed the maps on which Ukraine was not shown. In the past,

many an invader often strove to destroy and enslave her. For quite a few decades, fierce battles thundered over the Ukrainian land, antifeudal and peasant-cossack revolts shook her. Those revolts were a prelude to the Liberation War of the Ukrainian people (1648—1654) which culminated in the historic event of Ukraine's reunification with Russia.

Together with the Russian people, the Ukrainian people took an active part in the liberation movement against tsarist autocracy, social and national oppression.

Alongside the development of capitalism in tsarist Russia, the working class got strengthened in the struggle against exploiting classes, shaped its internationalist features and acquired the collectivistic spirit.

"The South-Russian Union of Workers", the first worker's organization in Ukraine, was founded in Odessa, in 1875.

During the revolution of 1905, the Ukrainian workers and peasants waged an armed struggle against tsarist autocracy. Mass peasant revolts also engulfed the West Ukraine whose people were under the Austro-Hungarian yoke. Humiliation of the national dignity, severe exploitation, permanent starvation and unemployment forced the peasants of West Ukraine to leave their native parts and emigrate across the ocean in search for a better lot. Those who remained cherished the hope to reunite with their brothers in the East and waged a stubborn struggle to attain that objective.

The workers of Ukraine and Russia together stormed in 1917 the Winter Palace, the last stronghold of bourgeois Provisional government, fought for establishment of the Soviet power in Ukraine, protected their lands from Austro-German troops, Pilsudsky's legionaries, French invaders, White Guards of Denikin and Wrangel.

The people of Soviet Ukraine are never going to forget that their release from the chains of exploitation, social and national oppression, realization of their age-long dreams for reunification of their native lands in single sovereign state, all their achievements, plans and projects for the future, are inseparably connected with the Great October Socialist Revolution, with the name of V. I. Lenin, the Communist Party and Soviet power.

The authors will tell about the today's Ukraine, one of the fifteen Union Republics, which is an economically developed state boasting a high level of public education, literature and arts. The book contains answers to questions most often asked by foreign guests of the Republic, Radio Kiev listeners, subscribers to the newspapers "Visti z Ukraini" and "News from Ukraine". We hope that this book, same as other similar Soviet publications, will help expand your knowledge about the life in this country as well as strengthen mutual understanding between nations.

It is noteworthy that not a single publication, whatever instructive it might be, can serve as a substitute to personal impressions of the fascinating nature of Ukraine, the beauty of her towns and villages. It is the direct contacts that are able to provide the proper understanding of our industrious, hospitable, sincere people, acquaint you with their rich spiritual world.

Millions of people on all the continents are aware of the fact that their friendly feelings will always find the warm response and cordial sympathy of the Soviet people.

So, welcome to Ukraine! Our homes are always open to guests coming to us as good friends.

Pages of history, state and social structure

PAGES OF HISTORY, STATE AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE

What is the origin of the name Ukraine?

The term *Ukraina* first appeared in the chronicles of ancient Slavs in the 12th century as a geographical name for the southern lands of the ancient Kiev Rus, a powerful state which in the 9th-11th century covered a big territory stretching from the Carpathians to the Volga River, from the Black Sea to the Baltic and White Seas. In Ipatiy's chronicle of 1187, the southern-eastern lands bordering on Polovetski steppe were called *Ukraine*. After this, in 1213, the southern-western lands which bordered on Poland were also named *Ukraine*.

Kiev Rus was the cradle of three fraternal Slav nations — Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians.

In the course of formation of the Ukrainian nationality the name *Ukraine* gradually spread to south-western Rus territories of Kiev, Chernihiv, Volyn, Podillya, Eastern Galicia, Transcarpathia, North Bukovina and Zaporizhya regions. As time passed, the people living in those parts became to be known as Ukrainians. Same as Russian and Byelorussian, the Ukrainian nationality was a separate ethnic entity with her own language, territory, economy and culture.

When and how was the Soviet power established in Ukraine?

In the fall of 1917, the workers and peasants of Russia, led by Bolsheviks, overthrew the rule of capitalists and landlords and created the Soviet state. That was

how the Great October Socialist Revolution was successfully accomplished. This historic event had been preceded by a lasting and stubborn revolutionary struggle of the working class and peasantry against the tsarist autocracy and exploiting classes.

The first Soviet Government, headed by Vladimir Lenin, adopted the decrees on peace and land, nationalized banks, industry and railroads. Due to this, all

Bohdan Khmelnitsky Square in Kiev — Mecca of tourists

forms of exploitation were liquidated, the land was given to those who tilled it, and the working people became the master of all national wealth. One of the Soviet state's first acts was the **Declaration of Rights of the Peoples of Russia.** This historic document proclaimed the following main principles of the nationalities policy of the Soviet Government:

— equality and sovereignty of the peoples of Russia;
— the right of the peoples of Russia to free self-determination up to secession and the setting up of an independent state;
— abolition of all national and national-religious privileges and restrictions.

Having adopted that state act, the Soviet Government fixed free development and full equality of all nationalities. The Government of young Soviet state officially recognized the sovereign rights of the peoples of Ukraine, Byelorussia, Poland, Finland, the Caucasus, Central Asia and all other regions of the former tsarist Russia.

Following the Russian people, the Ukrainians waged the struggle for establishment of the Soviet power in their land. Their struggle was part and parcel of the All-Russian revolutionary movement. This task was to a certain degree complicated because a part of Ukraine's territory was seized by the counterrevolutionary Central Council (Tsentralna Rada). Defending the interests of landlords and capitalists, the Central Council strove to break the victorious advance of the socialist revolution in Ukraine and, assisted by the Russian counterrevolution, tried to subjugate the Ukrainian people to the national bourgeoisie, carried out an untipopular policy. In fact, supporting capitalists, landlords, kulaks in their fight against the Revolution, the Central Council tried to liquidate the revolutionary gains of the Ukrainian proletariat. The land

was not given at the peasantry's disposal, unemployment increased, the people's living standards dramatically decreased.

Having gotten convinced that only the Soviet power was the real advocate of their interests, the Ukrainian workers and peasants took up arms against the Central Council.

In some countries of the West there still exist the inventions that the ideas of socialism are alien to the Ukrainian people and that the Soviet power was forcibly transported here from the North. V. Vinnichenko, leader of the Central Council (whose reputation of a gifted Ukrainian writer has now been fully restored in Ukraine) explained the failure of his government by the fact that the broad masses of population, taking into account their class affiliation, were oriented towards Bolsheviks, that is, they strove for attainment of full political and social emancipation. He also noted that most soldiers did not resist the Bolsheviks in any way or even sided with them; that almost every worker in each town supported them; that all poor peasants sympathized with Bolsheviks; that the overwhelming majority of the Ukrainian population was against the Central Council, and the result of all this was that town after town, province after province were taken by the Bolsheviks.

On December 25, 1917, the 1st All-Ukrainian Congress of Soviets, held in Kharkiv, expressing the will of the Ukrainian working people, proclaimed Ukraine a Republic of Soviets. That day marked the birth of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Thanks to the October Revolution, the people of Ukraine achieved the real national revival. The Congress made the decision concerning the self-determination of the Ukrainian people and establishment of close union with the Soviet Russia. Only in such a union the working people of Ukraine got the guarantee of freedom and indepen-

dence, that was how their cherished hope to create independent national state of workers and peasants came true.

How did the idea of establishing the Soviet Union arise and what was the role of Ukraine in formation of a single Union state?

Right after the victory of the October Revolution V. I. Lenin put forward the idea of a voluntary union state of workers and peasants belonging to all nations which would prohibit any type of oppression of one nation by another and be based on complete trust and voluntary agreement. "... We', he wrote, "consider ourselves, the Ukrainian SSR and others, equal, and enter with them, on an equal basis, into a new union, a new federation..."

The Ukrainian people strongly supported the Lenin's idea of formation of the USSR, and was one of the initiators of the official formation of a federation. The 7th All-Ukrainian Congress of Soviets, held in Kharkiv in December 1922, passed the Declaration on the Formation of the USSR and the decree concerning the fundamentals of the USSR Constitution. Delegates to the Congress addressed the workers and peasants of all Soviet Republics with the proposal to "immediately legalize the already existing Union of Soviet Republics and establish in this way the common front of workers and peasants against the front of world bourgeoisie".

The delegates expressed their confidence that having strengthened the political and economic ties of the Union Republics on the basis of their equality, the Union would secure their free national and cultural progress and would be the best means for adequate solution of the nationalities problem in the spirit of proletarian solidarity.

Decisions on joining the USSR were also taken at congresses of Soviets of the Russian Federation, Byelorussia and the Transcaucasian Federation. The 1st Congress of Soviets of the USSR took place in Moscow, in December 1922. It passed the Declaration of the Formation of the USSR and ratified the Union Treaty.

The new state formation became a powerful instrument for implementing the plans of the socialist construction in this country.

More than once the international friendship of the Soviet Republics stood the most severe tests. It helped defend the gains of socialism in WWII and rout the Nazi invaders. All Soviet Republics greatly assisted Ukraine to restore her devastated economy in postwar years.

In the single family of fraternal nations, Ukraine has turned into a mighty sovereign state boasting a high scientific, technological and cultural level, developed agriculture and industry.

We know that Ukraine suffered tremendous losses in WWII. What was her contribution to the victory over fascism?

On June 22, 1941, the Nazi Germany attacked our country without declaration of war. Armed to the teeth with most modern for that time military hardware and having a great experience of waging successful war in Europe, the Hitlerites spearheaded their first heavy blows against the territory of Ukraine. The German high command aimed at taking possession of the Republic's industry and rich mineral resources to strengthen their war economy and create the bridgehead for gaining quick victory over the USSR as was specified in the plan "Barbarossa".

However, the enemy met with unexpected stubborn resistance. Already in the first days of war, some 2.5 mln residents of Ukraine joined the ranks of the Red Army, 1.3 mln people formed the people's emergency volunteer corps. Millions of civilians built defensive installations, donated to the defense fund, helped organize and wage guerilla warfare. Pressed by the enemy, the Soviet troops were making a fighting retreat to the East. Among the major events of that war was heroic defense of Kiev, Odessa, Sevastopol. Defenders of these cities pinned down a big part of the enemy's forces, destroyed 260 thousand Hitlerites and thus helped upset the German plan of "blitzkrieg".

All this also made it possible to evacuate to the country's eastern parts 550 industrial works and scientific institutions, 70 higher educational establishments, over 40 theaters.

By the end of the year 1941, almost entire Ukraine's territory was captured by the Nazi troops which broadly practised terror and violence against local inhabitants.

In Ukraine, the Hitlerites tortured to death over 5 mln civilians and POWs, in particular, in notorious Babiy Yar and Yaniv concentration camp. 2.5 mln people were sent to Germany for hard labor.

Ukraine was occupied by the Nazis for more than three years, and over that period they ruined and burnt here 714 towns and settlements, over 28 thousand villages. 40 percent of apartment houses where almost 10 mln people had lived were destroyed. More than 16 thousand industrial works lay in ruins.

Regardless of ruthless terror, the nation-wide guerrilla warfare was being waged in the Ukraine's terri-

Monument to Cossack chieftain Ivan Sirko near Nikopol

Тут похований
КОШОВИЙ ОТАМАН
війська Запорізького
ІВАН СІРКО
16 30 роки

tory. The total number of guerrillas exceeded 500,000 men by the end of 1942. The warfare was headed by such famous guerrilla leaders as S. Kovpak, O. Fedorov, P. Vershigora, M. Popudrenko, O. Saburov, S. Stetsenko and many others.

Guerrillas operated in close contact with regular units of the Red Army, they took an active part in liberation of 139 Ukrainian towns. Guerrillas from Ukraine, Russia, Byelorussia and Moldavia often conducted common combat operations. In 1941, the Hitlerite command had to take 50,000 men from the front in order to check the activities of the Ukrainian guerrillas while in 1943 their number reached 242,000 men. All in all, the guerrillas annihilated 467 German garrisons, derailed 5,000 trains with men and hardware, exploded 915 military depots.

The Ukrainians took an active part in the Resistance Movement in European countries. They often headed the guerrilla detachments in France (in particular, Vasil Poryk, national hero of France), Italy, Belgium, Greece, Yugoslavia, Norway, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Rumania.

The beginning of Ukraine's liberation from the Nazi occupation coincided with the 25th Anniversary of establishment of the Soviet power in the Republic, that is, in December 1942, the first Ukrainian villages were taken by the Red Army men. When the Soviet troops were fighting the battle of the Dnieper the Order of Bohdan Khmelnitsky was introduced. In that battle, 10 guerrilla formations operating in the Dnieper basin took an active part. On November 6, the troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front liberated Kiev, the capital of the Soviet Ukraine.

The battle of the Dnieper was one of the most significant events in that war.

In the summer of 1944, the Red Army commenced liberation of West Ukrainian lands. In the course of

Carpathian-Uzhgorod operation, the enemy was thrown out from entire territory of Ukraine in its prewar borders. On October 28, 1944 the Transcarpathian Ukrainian lands were also liberated, that is, the lands which, according to the decision of the 1st Congress of People's committees in November 26, 1944, were reunited with the Ukrainian SSR. That was the completion of historic process involving the reunification of all Ukrainian lands in the single Ukrainian state.

The battle of Ukraine lasted for almost two years. About the half of the Red Army men and hardware participated in it, 3755 of them, representatives of 43 nationalities, were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Hundreds of thousands were decorated with various combat awards.

For courage and heroism displayed by the residents of Kiev, Odessa, Sevastopol and Kerch in the struggle against the Hitlerites, these cities bear the title of Hero City.

Having thrown down the fascist yoke, the Ukrainian people started to restore the Republic's economy ravaged by war, while hundreds of thousands of Ukraine's sons and daughters kept fighting, took part in liberation of Europe and finished their historic mission by final routing of the Hitlerites in Berlin.

What is the practical implementation of constitutional provisions fixing the full power of the people?

It is noteworthy that the Constitution, similar to all other laws in this country, not only declares the rights and freedoms of citizens but also provides guarantees for their implementation. Article 2 of the Ukrainian SSR Constitution states the following: "All power in the Ukrainian SSR belongs to people. The people exercise state power through Soviets of Pe-

ople's Deputies, which constitute the political foundation of the Ukrainian SSR.

"All other state bodies are under the control of, and accountable to, the Soviets of People's Deputies".

Citizens of Ukraine, same as the citizens of other Union Republics, participate in management of state, social and production affairs, in discussion and adoption of laws having the All-Union and local significance. This right is ensured by the possibility to elect and be elected to the Soviets of People's Deputies and other elective state bodies, to take part in nationwide referendums, in meetings at places of work or residence.

Of the total number of 526,276 deputies to local bodies of government elected at general elections in June, 1987, over 3/4 were workers and peasants whereas women constitute roughly the half of the deputies in towns, districts, settlements and villages.

In their activities, the Soviets of People's Deputies are strongly assisted by the public. Some 600,000 bodies of public self-administration function in Ukraine, among them street and apartment house committees, women's councils, public order teams, parent school committees, and the like.

In what way does the Soviet Constitution secure the sovereignty of Ukraine as a Union Republic?

Article 76 of the USSR Constitution states: "A Union Republic is a sovereign Soviet socialist state that has united with other Soviet Republics in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics". The Soviet Constitution proclaims that a Union Republic has an independent

Tunnel of grief in memorial complex "Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War of 1941—1945" in Kiev

authority on its territory except for the issues under the jurisdiction of the USSR like admission of new Republics to the USSR, determination of the country's boundaries, approval of changes in the boundaries between Union Republics.

Ukraine, same as other Union Republics, has the right to freely secede from the USSR. The Republic has its own Constitution, territory which cannot be changed without its consent. Ukraine independently solves the problems concerning its administrative and territorial structure. The Ukrainian SSR, like other Union Republics, participates in decision-making in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Government of the USSR and other All-Union state bodies in the matters coming under the jurisdiction of the USSR. A Union Republic shall take due measures to provide for adequate socioeconomic development on its territory, and shall properly implement the decisions of the highest state bodies of the USSR.

The sovereign rights of the Union Republics are guaranteed and safeguarded by the USSR Constitution.

New laws concerning the organization of public meetings and demonstrations have been adopted in your country. What do they specify?

Well, in fact, they are not laws but state resolutions. Lately the street meetings have become a frequent event. Under the conditions of democratization of the Soviet society and a growing scope of social activity, such meetings are often organized by citizens themselves and by informal associations. In this case, people use their freedoms, fixed by the Constitution. However, while specifying the general democratic principles, the constitutional provisions cannot take into account various circumstances and situations oc-

curing in the course of unofficial meetings and demonstrations. Such situations may involve public order violations, hooliganism, conflicts with militia. The cases of this kind took place in different parts of the country. In view of this, the necessity arose to elaborate the new legal acts concerning such cases. On July 28, 1988, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted the decree specifying the order of organization and holding of the meetings, street marches and demonstrations in the USSR. On August 3 the same year, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR passed the decree about the responsibility for violation of the established order of organization and holding the meetings, street marches and demonstrations specifying, in particular, that organizers of the meetings must request the local authorities for permission 10 days prior to holding the meeting, march or demonstration. For instance, during marches, demonstrations and meetings it is prohibited to have arms on oneselves or other articles which might jeopardize human life, health or property. The said decree also specifies that should public order during such meetings, marches be violated, the guilty persons are either given an official warning or fined up to 300 rubles.

The order of holding street meetings and demonstration in this country is in a full accord with the international agreements on human rights, specifically, with article 21 of International pact of 1966 pertaining to civil and political rights.

Does Ukraine, being a Union Republic of the USSR, have the right to participate in international relations on equal basis with other countries?

Certain circles in the West keep raising ungrounded doubts as to the Ukraine's right to take part in

international relations in general. They maintain that the Ukrainian SSR, having become a part of the USSR, ostensibly refused from being engaged in foreign relations, hence, lost her sovereignty, statehood, and so the right to function in the international arena. Another not so categorical allegation is that Ukraine participates in international life on a limited scale having entrusted the Union bodies with the right to represent her certain interests abroad.

We are going to consider below whether such statements are true or not.

In its note of 1923 sent to all countries with which the Republic maintained ties, the People's Commissariat for Foreign affairs really stated that Ukraine transferred its powers in the international arena to the USSR.

However, that by no means testified to the fact that the Republic refused from her sovereignty and renounced her independence. In reality, the Ukrainian SSR established (at the Government of the USSR) her Permanent Representation which, among other things, dealt with foreign affairs. In the countries where the Republic had big interests she accredited her diplomats or First Secretaries with personnel of the USSR embassies. Functioning in Ukraine were the consulates of Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Japan and Italy.

Over the period which passed since the USSR had been established, the country's international positions underwent great changes and international ties considerably expanded. Prestige of the USSR grew immensely during WWII. The war over, it became necessary to raise the role of each Union Republic in the international arena.

Those Republics that made a lofty contribution to the rout of fascist Germany and sustained heavy losses in that war wanted to take an active part in interna-

tional life. They were interested in direct contacts with other countries for securing and strengthening peace, maintaining and developing friendship and mutual understanding. All this required establishment and expansion of their contacts with other states by means of direct participation in the UN, a new international body, and other international organizations, in international conferences, congresses and agreements with the aim of development of economic, scientific, cultural and other kinds of contacts among states. The problem of Ukraine's direct participation in international relations was considered and finally solved in March, 1944 at the 6th Session of the Republic's Supreme Soviet of the 1st convocation. The Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR ratified the law "On the Establishment of a Union-Republican People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian SSR" (today the Ministry of Foreign affairs).

The Ukrainian SSR Constitution of 1978 specifies that the Ukrainian SSR has the right to enter into relations with foreign states, to conclude agreements and exchange diplomatic and consular representatives with them, to take part in the activities of international organizations. The Ukrainian SSR has been realizing this constitutional right either directly or through the USSR. Taking into account her specific interest, the Republic, for instance, establishes the foreign trade ties jointly with other Union Republics through common Union bodies or maintains direct foreign trade contacts with the corresponding bodies in the foreign states. This can be proved, for instance, by the protocols for direct trade exchange signed by the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Trade with Poland, Rumania and Hungary. Another example is the direct trade contacts between the frontier districts of Ukraine and Czechoslovakia.

Due to perestroika of socioeconomic activity in the USSR, an ever growing number of the Ukrainian industrial enterprises switch over to direct economic and trade contacts with their foreign counterparts. By the end of 1988, almost 150 local industrial works, agricultural firms and other establishments maintained the mutually profitable ties with firms and companies abroad.

The foreign trade cost-accounting company "Ukrimpex" has started functioning under the UkrSSR Government. In fact, this company is the mediator between ministries, offices and industrial enterprises in Ukraine with foreign partners. By the beginning of the year 1989, "Ukrimpex" made almost 250 mutually beneficial contacts with foreign companies. By the end of 1989, 9 joint industrial enterprises and three international amalgamations had been established here.

Today, the Republic exports her industrial products to more than 120 countries. Some 25 % of the entire export output involve various kinds of sophisticated high-tech machinery.

Starting from April 3, 1989, the industrial enterprises, amalgamations, companies and coop organizations, whose products had been defined as competitive in the world market, were given the right to independent trade with foreign partners.

Well, we are also going to comment on the alleged limitations in the Republic's participation in international life. International law makes a provision that each country, guided by its own interests, makes independent decision on how, with whom, when, in what way, directions and scope to create and maintain international ties. The state also has the right to decide whether it acts abroad on its own or jointly with other states, or whether it will entrust the latter with the task to maintain foreign ties on its behalf, or it will

make an agreement with these countries to establish the federation and set up the adequate means for maintaining these contacts. There exist the states which to a great extent limit the scope of their international relations. Some of them, e. g. Switzerland, are not even members of the UN. However, the international subject status of these countries has never been questioned.

Realizing her international ties in forms and scope she independently defines the Ukrainian SSR persistently struggles for peace and development of good neighborly relations among states.

It is a common knowledge that at the end of 1988 new laws concerning the amendments and additions to the USSR Constitution and elections of the People's Deputies were adopted in your country. What was the attitude of Ukraine's population to those laws?

To put it briefly, the attitude of Ukraine's population, like that of the residents of other Union Republics, to the bills published in the press right before the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, was mostly nonformal. These documents brought about active exchange of opinions, heated discussions, numerous propositions, additions, amendments which often were diametrically opposite to each other. The Republic's residents, belonging to all strata of its population, made a wide use of mass media, sent scores of letters to the Party and State bodies to express their opinions. 120,000 proposals were sent to the Supreme Soviet of the UkrSSR alone. Most remarks and proposals concerned 45 out of 53 articles of the Bill on changes and additions to the Constitution of the USSR and 55 out of 62 articles of the Bill on elections of the People's Deputies of the USSR. The proposals were thoroughly

analyzed and generalized at the meeting of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Council. Quite a few additions and amendments were taken into due account by the Commission of Legislative Proposals of both Chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and they were included in the final versions of the documents. The basic result of discussing the Bills was that the Soviet citizens displayed a broad support to the changes occuring in this country. In closing, we may conclude that the Bill, was still another proof of democratization, perestroika and glasnost (openness) in the Soviet Union.

What is the way of regulating the relations between different nationalities in your country?

After the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution in 1917, all conditions for striving up the national discord were eliminated in this country. The socialist ownership of the means of production reliably prevents the antagonism among nations, generates and favors mutual assistance and cooperation between them.

Citizens of the Soviet Union belonging to different races and nationalities enjoy equal rights fixed by the Fundamental Law. These rights are ensured by the policy of comprehensive development and the drawing together of all nations and nationalities of the country, by educating the citizens in the spirit of Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism, a new type of equality, fraternal cooperation and mutual assistance of nations.

However, this does not mean that all problems without exceptions have been solved in the sphere of national relations. At the 27th CPSU Congress, it was underscored that the Communist Party has al-

ways been against national narrow-mindedness, nationalism and chauvinism which are alien to socialism. Today, the CPSU sets the task to achive the adequate harmonization of the interests of all nations and nationalities of this country on the principles of internationalism, independence, responsibility and mutual assistance, to ensure the strengthening and further development of our multinational Soviet state.

The CPSU Central Committee decided to prepare the proposals on introduction of amendments and additions to the existing Soviet legislation which settles the problems of relations between nations. Among such problems are perfection of Soviet Socialist Federation, further development of legal status of Union and Autonomous Republics, autonomous regions and districts, more clear definition of jurisdiction of the USSR and the Union Republics.

New legislation should also provide for expansion of legal guarantees in fulfilling the national and cultural requirements of the Soviet citizens who live beyond their ethnic boundaries or who have no boundaries of this kind, enhancement of responsibility for any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness, hostility or contempt.

The people of upwards of 100 nations and nationalities live in Ukraine. The Republic's constitution obliges every citizen of Ukraine to respect the national dignity of other citizens to strengthen the friendship among the nations and nationalities of the Soviet Union. It is interesting to know some findings of ethnographers and sociologists: the number of inter-national marriages in the USSR is growing year in year out both in the country as a whole and in each Union Republic. The highest percentage of such marriages was registered in Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Latvia where each fifth marriage is "mixed".

The Soviet official documents specify that prior to perestroika, during the so-called stagnation period, in Ukraine, like elsewhere in your country, the problems in national relations in your country were almost never mentioned, that the development of national languages, the Ukrainian in particular, was neglected. What is the state of affairs in the field today?

The issues of national relations were discussed at the 27th CPSU Congress, the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference, the Plenary Meetings of the CPSU Central Committee and the Central Committees of Communist Parties of the Union Republics. Special Plenary Meetings of the CPSU Central Committee and the Central Committees of Communist Parties of all Union Republics considered in detail these issues as well.

It is right to say that the nationalities question has been resolved in this country. The October Revolution cleared the way to not only legal but also socioeconomic equality of nations.

However, the concept of problem-free character of relations among nations, prevailing in social sciences during the Stalin's totalitarian regime and stagnation period, the attempts aimed at merging of national cultures and languages, indifferent attitude to the nationalities questions gave rise to quite a few serious unsolved problems which have become particularly acute today at the time of perestroika and glasnost. Among such problems in the Republic are hushing up or distorted interpretations of quite a few historical periods, decreasing role of the Ukrainian language in state and social activities leading to reduction in the number of schools where subjects are taught in Ukrainian, lack of special literature and movies in the Ukrainian language.

How are the said problems being solved in Ukraine? The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uk-

raine has passed two resolutions on practical implementation of decisions taken at the 27th CPSU Congress and the January (1987) Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee in the sphere of relations among nations, as well as on improving the internationalist education of the people. It was noted in the second resolution, passed in January 1989, that the "measures are being taken to solve the acute problems which may aggravate the situation, particularly in the field of national culture, language". The conditions are created for a broad use of the Ukrainian language in all domains of social, political, economic and cultural life of the Republic. During 1987—1988, upwards of 200 high schools and 130 kindergartens with tuition in the Ukrainian language were opened in the Republic. Much more time is now spent in local high schools for studying the national languages and literatures.

However, much is still to be done in this very sphere. The network of preschool children establishments with the Ukrainian language of tuition is expanded rather slowly. For instance, there were no such establishments in the Crimean region in January 1989. Such educational establishments had not been opened by that time in Voroshilovgrad, Mikolayiv, Sumy, Kharkiv. The number of courses in the Ukrainian languages also increases very slowly at the universities, colleges, technical and vocational schools. The citizens who do not speak Ukrainian have little opportunity to learn it since there is lack of dictionaries and phrase books. Such big publishers as Vishcha Shkola, Naukova Dumka, Zdorovya publish only a small number of special literature in Ukrainian. The same holds true for the local film studios.

The resolutions passed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine concerning meeting the cultural demands of numerous ethnic groups

are being successfully implemented. They have the adequate representation in elective governing bodies. Over 450 departments on the study of the Bulgarian, Hungarian, Polish, New Greek, Tatar and other languages had been opened at schools and institutions of higher learning by January 1989. Some two thousands new ethnic amateur art groups have been created. Polish and Jewish cultural societies have been established.

The resolution, passed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine in January 1989, envisaged a number of measures to be taken to successfully solve the national language problem. It is planned, for instance, to popularize the Ukrainian folk songs, to teach Ukrainian starting from the first grades at schools with Russian language of tuition, to write the computer programs in the Ukrainian language.

The Central Committee also proposed Party, state, trade-union and Komsomol (Young Communist League) bodies to introduce the principle of Ukrainian-Russian bilingualism in office work and official contacts, information, ads, public catering, trade, public utilities, transport, etc.

Allowing for the multinational composition of Ukraine's population, much is done here to make the citizens of any nationality feel at home in our Republic.

How can you explain the fact that the USSR has only one Party?

This was not always so. After the victory of the October Revolution there existed other parties besides the Party of Bolsheviks in this country. Those parties advocated and supported the interests of different strata of population. For example, the party of Soci-

alist Revolutionaries (SRs) whose representatives were members of the Soviet Government for a certain period of time. It was already in March 1918, when they refused to participate in the Government, and soon after organized the armed mutiny with the aim of overthrowing the Soviet power.

Having thus compromised themselves before the people, the SR and other small bourgeois parties left the political scene. The Party of Bolsheviks (the name of the Communist Party at that time) representing the age-long aspirations of the working people took upon itself the leading role in society.

"The party exists for the people and serves the people", read the rules of the CPSU. As regards its composition it is really the party of the Soviet people. The Communist Party of Ukraine is part and parcel of the CPSU. It replenishes its ranks by the best representatives of workers, peasants and intellectuals. Over the postwar period, the number of communists in Ukraine increased almost threefold and constitutes today over three million persons. Three quarters of them are engaged in the sphere of material production. Some two million persons have a higher and specialized secondary education. Women account for almost one quarter of communists in the Republic.

The Party's political leadership is based on scientifically grounded program and the efforts for its realization by all economic and state organizations. The Party's political program is not something fixed forever. After a great deal of preparatory work and nation-wide discussion, the 27th CPSU Congress adopted a new edition of the CPSU Program. The edition covers all the changes taken place in the Soviet society, maps out the ways of planned and comprehensive perfection of socialism, further advance of our society to communism based on accelerated socioeconomic development.

Today, as never before, the Party's activities and the role it plays in the country's life are in the focus of public attention. The people pin their hopes with the Party's course for perestroika and democratization. It was the CPSU that put forward in April 1985 this course and has been firmly pursuing it ever since.

It was frankly stated at the 19th CPSU Conference that in the past certain negative phenomena in the Party resulted in the deterioration of its ties with the people, in the departure from quite a few democratic principles laid down by V. I. Lenin and his comrades-in-arms in the revolutionary struggle. Today, with perestroika, the situation has been cardinally changed for the better but still not all Party organizations have adequately changed their activities in conformity to new requirements. It is still hard for some people to learn the skills of working under conditions of perestroika and glasnost. General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee M. S. Gorbachev stated that at the present turning point the CPSU should fully realize its functions as a leading force of the Soviet society.

Today, the functions of Party and state organs are being clearly defined and separated. All Party organizations must function with strict observance of the Constitutional provisions and the Soviet laws, as was decided by the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference.

The CPSU favors active participation of various informal associations in the course of perestroika. These associations have been formed in our country as a result of rapid development of socialist pluralism.

What are the rights of the Soviet trade unions?

An overwhelming majority of the working class, farmers and intellectuals in this country are members of trade unions. Their number in Ukraine exceeds 26 mln people. Trade unions are the biggest organi-

zation of the working people, they play a great role in the country's life, in the development of socialist democracy. Perestroika provided trade unions and other public organizations with the right to be directly represented in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Supreme Soviets of the Union Republics. Trade unions have always been represented in the Soviet government, ministries, took an active part in the management of enterprises. They also have the right of initiating legislation. Every issue which concerns the interests of the working people at any state level cannot be solved without the consent of trade unions or without taking their views into due account.

The state has provided the unions with quite a few important functions. Among them are handling of social security budget, controlling the observance of labor protection laws, sanatoria-resort maintenance, tourism etc.

The trade unions enjoy broad rights in such matters as employment and dismissal, appointment of managers and control over their work, improvement of labor conditions, pay rises, solution of labor disputes. A manager has no right to sack a person without the trade unions consent.

The enactments on labor collectives and raising their role in production management, passed in the last few years, helped considerably expand the rights of trade-union committees. The said enactments specify that not a single production or social matter at industrial enterprises, offices and organizations cannot be decided without the office or factory workers taking direct part in it. General meetings (conferences) is the most important form of realizing the rights of work collectives. These meetings are held not less than twice a year. Decisions taken by the meetings, according to the new legislation, are obligatory for all members of the collective, administration included.

Proposals and recommendations forwarded by work collectives shall be considered within a month's time by the administration, trade union or other public organizations, and if necessary, by state and public bodies.

Perestroika has posed a number of new problems before trade unions. Today, they must concentrate on protecting the democratic rights of the working people, take an active part in realization of such major tasks as realization of the Food Program, full satisfaction of people's needs in housing, consumer goods etc. The report-back election meetings of the Republic's trade-union organs testified to the fact that their role in solution of socioeconomic problems had considerably increased. It was also noted that bureaucratic methods in their activities have not been fully eliminated yet including the Ukrainian Council of Trade Unions. The structure of trade-union organs is being further improved in the Republic in order to make them truly democratic institutions.

What youth organizations are there in Ukraine?

The All-Union Young Leninist League (Komsomol) is the largest organization of the Soviet youth. The Ukraine's Komsomol is a part of this organization. Having been established in June 1919, it boasts today upwards of 7 million young men and women aged from 14 to 28 who excel in studies, work and public life. About one half of the Komsomol members work in material production sphere.

It was noted at the 25th Congress (1987) of Ukraine's Komsomol that within the last few years over 100 thousand young people of the Republic expressed their wish to work at the country's most important construction projects. It is practically impossible today to even imagine the country's economic development without

the Soviet youth taking an active part in this process. To impart more dynamism and efficiency to the work of the Komsomol central bodies, their staff has been reduced by one third. The Komsomol members are also active in the management of state affairs. Over one third of the deputies to the local bodies of government are young people. The Ukraine's Komsomol have at their disposal the publishing house *Molod*, youth editorial offices at TV and radio stations, newspapers and journals with circulation of almost 10 million copies.

The 20th Congress of the All-Union Young Leninist Communist League (1987) profoundly analyzed the activities of this mass youth organization, and set the new tasks for the future. It was underscored, in particular, that not a single economic or social task had not been solved without active participation of the Komsomol. Most young people demonstrated their firm adherence to the ideals of socialism. Unfortunately, all these positive factors could not prevent the development of some negative phenomena. There emerged the contradictions between democratic character of the Komsomol and bureaucratic ways of its management, between the aspirations of young people to social renewal and the doctrines which never changed over many a decade.

Perestroika in the Komsomol means, first and foremost, the cardinal changes in its activities aimed at raising its prestige among the Soviet youth and enhancement of its role in acceleration of the country's socioeconomic advance and in molding the new man.

We would like to underscore once more that the CPSU supports the aspiration of the Komsomol and informal youth organizations to take an active part in social life, in particular, in such spheres as production, nature conservation, culture and many others in order to stimulate their social activities. At present,

the new Law is being drawn up which will legally expand and fix the rights of young people.

The Committee of Youth organizations of the USSR, and each Union Republic, function under the aegis of the Komsomol. This is a public organization representing the Soviet youth in the international youth movement and promoting the strengthening of ties with youth organizations abroad. Similar task is fulfilled by the USSR Council of Students being a part of international student movement.

Scientific societies of students function in Ukraine as well. Their aim is the widest possible involvement of young people in scientific and research activities.

The students at universities and colleges have their voluntary sports society named *Burevestnik*.

The Komsomol takes patronage over the work of the Young Pioneer Organization named after V. I. Lenin. The schoolchildren aged 9 to 15 are its members. Young pioneers have their own traditions, uniform and symbols. They wear red neck ties symbolizing the unity of communists, Komsomol members and young pioneers. Some 4 mln children are members of the Young Pioneer Organization of Ukraine.

Various public associations have started functioning in the USSR. Can you tell of at least one of them, say, a popular women's association?

Right, perestroika in this country gave a fresh impetus to the activities of the organization of labor and WWII veterans, the Soviet Cultural Foundation and Children's Fund, various associations engaged in nature conservation and preservation of historic monuments, charity movement, etc. Women's councils have also resumed their work. Such initiatives of the Soviet people are supported by the CPSU and the Soviet Government.

In the past, it was often stated by the officials that the women's rights question in the Soviet Union had been solved once and forever. True, the October Revolution cardinally changed the women's lot for the better. Their discrimination was eliminated by the first decrees of the Soviet Government worked out with direct participation of V. I. Lenin. He underscored, in particular, that for the first time ever, our law had liquidated everything that made women deprived of any rights. We proclaimed equality of women and men, provided their equal access to almost all trades, introduced equal pay for an equal work, created equal conditions for women to get education, participate in the activities of state bodies and public organizations, guaranteed other civil rights. Today, the Soviet women work in all branches of the country's economy, they constitute a majority in such spheres as health protection, public education, culture. Among the specialists with higher and secondary education 60 percent are women. However, our women still face quite a few problems hindering them to fully use their rights. Living conditions which often badly need improvement, lack of kindergartens and high-quality consumer goods, poor functioning of services industry — all these by no means make the women's lives a carefree experience. Such state of affairs is also a result of the fact that the opinions and aspirations of the Soviet women were not often reckoned with in due manner. They are not also adequately represented in the state organs.

The 27th CPSU Congress made a decision to restore the women's councils in regions, towns, districts and labor collectives and to unite them in a single system with the Committee of Soviet Women at its head. The activities of this system were initiated in 1987 by the All-Union Women's Conference. Over 200 women from Ukraine were the delegates to it. Today, the women's

councils are an important public institution making a ponderable contribution to the process of perestroika. They, together with the state bodies, make much to solve the pressing problems facing the Soviet women.

In particular, they provide a comprehensive assistance to elderly people, invalids, WWII veterans, single women with children. The councils make the proposals to state and trade-union organs concerning improvement of working conditions for women engaged in light industry, agriculture, civil engineering. They also consult people on family matters.

45 thousand such councils function in Ukraine, they involve almost 500 thousand women, most of them aged from 30 to 45.

What about the rights of foreigners and stateless persons in Ukraine?

The legal status of foreigners in the USSR is regulated by a special law which is in a full agreement with the norms of International Law.

Citizens of other countries and stateless persons, living in the territory of the Ukrainian SSR or in the USSR temporarily or permanently, shall respect the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR (or the USSR) and observe the laws effective on the Ukraine's territory. Foreigners make use of the national regime providing them with rights and freedoms guaranteed to the Soviet citizens and which, in general, places the same obligations on them save for the limitations established for alien residents.

The rights being used by foreigners involve the right to own property, to inherit and bequeth it; the right to select trade and place of residence; the right on author's rights in the field of science, literature, arts, etc; the right to sign all public agreements the Soviet citizens can sign.

Foreigners also enjoy the following socioeconomic rights: the right to work, to rest and leizure, to maintenance in old age and in the event of sickness and disability, the right to education, etc. They can also use the freedom of speech if such a freedom does not run counter to social and state security, the freedom of conscience involving the right to profess any religion, the inviolability of person whereby no one may be arrested except by a court decision or on the warrant of a procurator; inviolability of the home, privacy of correspondence and telephone conversations.

Foreigners cannot have the same rights which they enjoyed in their countries but which contradict the Soviet law and order.

Basic provisions of the Soviet Civil Code fix that if an international agreement or treaty has established other rights than those in the said Code, the rights of this international agreement or treaty shall be applied and strictly observed.

The national regime not only provides foreigners with basically the same rights being enjoyed by the Soviet citizens but also imposes upon them the obligations fixed by the Soviet legislation. They include, in particular, noninterference into the home affairs of the Soviet Union, respect of national customs, traditions, observance of the standards of the socialist conduct, existing law and order. Certain restrictions, particularly in the sphere of political rights, have been established for the foreigners staying in this country. They cannot use the right to vote or any other political rights which are the privilege of the Soviet citizens. Neither can they be elected to the Soviets of People's Deputies.

At the same time, foreigners enjoy certain rights here which are not guaranteed in some capitalist countries, for instance, the right to equal pay for men and women, paid leaves, and some others.

In some cases, alien residents in the USSR can use the rights specified in special agreements. For example, proceeding from international agreement and programs of cultural, scientific and technological cooperation, citizens of other countries have the right to study and do postgraduate studies at higher and specialized secondary educational establishments, research institutions, etc.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR has the right to grant citizenship (at the same time citizenship of the USSR) to foreigners and stateless persons who permanently live on the Republic's territory.

What are the new customs regulations in the USSR? What goods and items are the people living abroad allowed to send to their relatives in Ukraine?

The Soviet customs officials have been always working according to the principle: "Allowed is everything not prohibited by law". This is the main principle of new customs code being drawn up in this country. The same holds true concerning the new customs regulations. For instance, the persons permanently living abroad and coming to this country upon invitation are allowed to bring personal belongings in the quantity required during their stay in Ukraine without paying the customs duties.

It is strictly forbidden to bring to the territory of the USSR narcotic drugs, pornography, the literature popularizing violence, war, etc., that is, everything that may jeopardize the country's economic and political interests, health and moral standards of the Soviet citizens.

It is allowed to send from abroad the parcels, among them those with radio sets, photo-, cine-, and videocameras, tape-, and videorecorders, musical electronic

equipment and instruments (1 piece of each item); sound-recording cassettes and reels (10 pieces); video cassettes (5 pieces); personal computers (1 piece). It is also allowed to send in reasonable quantity the clothes items, 3 pieces or pairs (e. g. stockings) of each item.

Now, a few words about the items being taken out by foreign citizens from the USSR. Starting from February 1, 1989 it is prohibited to take out from this country TV sets, refrigerators, sewing and washing machines, children's clothes and footwear, coffee, salmon and sturgeon caviar. Some items are classified as customable. It is also specified that the total cost of consumer goods being taken out by one person from the USSR shall not exceed 100 roubles (about 60—65 dollars) in retail prices of this country.

What were the results of Stalin's repressions in Ukraine?

We know today that political charges and repressions against quite a few prominent Party and state figures, communists and non-Party people, military leaders, scientists and men of culture were the results of falsification, self-will and lawlessness on the part of Joseph Stalin and his aids in the 1930s, 40s, and the beginning of the 50s.

Many such persons were exonerated, especially after the 20th CPSU Congress (1956). Thousands of innocent victims were rehabilitated. However, much still remained to be done in this field. At present, the process of rehabilitation is being continued according to the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the October (1987) Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. The Commission of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Commission has been set up which carries out an additional study of materials pertaining

to repressions which took place during the Stalin's rule.

At the beginning of 1989, the CPSU Central Committee passed the resolution "On additional measures for restoration of justice concerning the victims of repressions which took place in the period of the 1930s, 1940s and at the beginning of the 1950s". In conformity to this resolution, commissions of the People's Deputies and representatives of the public were set up to help the state bodies ensure the rights and interests of the repressed persons.

Similar commissions function in Ukraine as well, their activities are a part of the countrywide process of clearing the Soviet society from grave mistakes and crimes committed in the past.

Over 310 thousand victims were rehabilitated in the Republic within the period from the year 1950 till today. Still it is hard to precisely define the total number of the repressed persons, we can only state that millions were subjected to them. It is even difficult to tell the exact number of repressed communists. The available data testify that by January 1, 1933 the membership of communists in the CP(B)U was 550,433 persons while by January 1, 1938 the membership constituted 284,132 persons, that is, the number of communists decreased by 48.3 percent. Such a drastic reduction could be the result of repressions which continued later on as well. For instance, out of 62 members of the CP(B)U Central Committee, elected in 1937, 55 were groundlessly charged with hostile activities and subjected to repressions. Ten out of eleven members of the CP(B)U Political Bureau and four out of five candidates to the Political Bureau were executed. Among the victims we can name such prominent state and public figures as V. Zatonsky, S. Kosior, M. Popov, K. Sukhomlyn, M. Khatayevich. The same

lot fell upon quite a few famous Ukrainian intellectuals.

The repressions engulfed the entire country, therefore, there are no grounds to believe that Ukraine suffered most of all. For instance, in small Georgia, the homeland of Stalin and his henchman Beriya, over 50 thousand people were subjected to repressions, 20 thousand of them were executed by shooting, including almost all government, plenty of scientists, writers, public figures, workers and peasants. Such gloomy statistics reflects the tragic events of our history. These are hard facts but our people should know them for the sake of truth, for preventing their recurrence in the future,

What were the reasons behind the 1933 famine in Ukraine?

According to Lenin's plan of cooperation, the socialist transformations in agriculture had to be conducted on the basis of radical technical reconstruction and higher cultural level of working people. The agricultural plan worked out by Vladimir Lenin was previewed for quite a long term and not for some three years of total collectivization forced upon the peasantry by different questionable methods.

However, Stalin called the nation for total collectivization in 1929. This resolution contradicted the principle of voluntary enrollment to collective farms. In fact, the process was needed not by common folks but by Stalin, aspiring to overcome the grain crisis and snatch from the villages additional means for industrialization.

It was planned to complete the total collectivization in autumn 1931 — spring 1932. Due to the ruthless measures, collectivization was completed much

earlier. Peasants were driven to collective farms forcefully. The authorities resorted to blackmail, threats and repressions. The Leninist doctrine on cooperation, according to which the peasants could join collective farms on their own free will, was repeatedly violated.

Simultaneously with collectivization, the authorities started the savage campaign for irradication of the so-called kulak-peasants as allegedly harmful class. The kulak manhunt affected a lot of modest-income farmers, who simply couldn't be rated as rich landowners.

The forced collectivization was followed by growing mismanagement. This tendency had been acquiring critical dimensions, because of insufficient experience in collective agriculture. Brief period of collectivization didn't and simply couldn't change the social psychology of grain-growers. Total lack of interest on the part of peasants in development of public farming, their unwillingness to work for nothing became the most glaring manifestation of the crisis which affected collective farms right after their emergence.

Disorganization and degradation of collective production didn't change the State-promoted policy of grain supplies. Grain was knocked out with the iron hand of law. At the same time the living standards of collective farmers were catastrophically dropping to zero level. Already in 1932, food supplies were exhausted in many rural regions of the country. In the course of grain campaign, the local authorities were terrorized by their superiors who resorted to administrative pressure, stripped those "guilty" of party membership, and brought up criminal charges against those who proved unable to carry out the state plan. Huge losses of grain were observed during harvest-time. The disillusioned peasants used to close their eyes on mismanagement saying: "Let it perish. They

gonna take it anyways." The losses of grain were estimated to reach 150—200 million poods while the plan for grain supplies demanded not less than 267 million poods. Ukraine managed to wring out only 136 million poods of grain before November 1, 1932.

The authorities resolved to get the grain no matter what.

Dispatched to Ukraine by Stalin was the Extraordinary Commission with Molotov at the head. In order to suppress the opposition to the shipment of grain from famine-stricken areas, the Commission resorted to large-scale punitive measures. Special groups were organized under the Ukr. SSR's Ministry of Justice and in the regional centers. These groups were attached to the bodies responsible for grain supplies. The district executive commissions were ordered to take all grain available at the collective farms. This was the heaviest blow. The Commission confiscated grain for seeds, for food and also fodder grain. Due to zealous assistance of plenipotentiary envoys from the district and regional party committees, all grain was taken from graneries of collective farms and carted to the storing points. After this, there was no grain left for internal use of collective farmers. They received nothing in turn and had no other option but to starve to death. Despite all this, grain supplies continued until mid November 1932, when the famine began to collect its terrible toll already.

Since the end of 1933, the Central Government issued a number of resolutions according to which collective and state farms of Ukraine received some 23 million poods of seeds, nearly 5 million poods of food grain and 6.3 million poods of forrage grain. (Actually this grain was lent by the state). Besides, the Republic received 400 thousand poods of other foodstuffs. However, all this was but a drop in the ocean which was unable to reverse the tragic situation.

Famine was scything down the people at an increasing rate until summer 1933. Whole villages were dying out. There were quite a few cases of cannibalism. In some instances the dead were used as food. No one kept track of victims or even tried to give approximate estimates of the tragedy. All information about the horrible events was thoroughly concealed.

At the same time, the country continued to export grain in order to obtain currency for industrial equipment. In 1930, the grain export constituted 298 million poods, in 1931 — 316 million poods, in 1932— 107.9 million poods and in 1933 — 105.3 million poods.

How many lives were snatched by the disaster?

Certain Western Sovietologists allege that total collectivization claimed 13 million lives in rural areas. In their estimates more than 7 million people died of hunger, the rest — from repressions and consequences of forced eviction. According to the statistical information given in the works of such historians as Robert Davis and Stephen Whitcroft, demographers Barbara Anderson and Brian Silver, the number of famine victims reached 3—4 millions. The Ukrainian historian Kulchitsky has actually the same point of view. He motivates it by the following facts that according to the census of population, Ukraine had 30,157,600 residents in early 1937. This was by 1,743,800 less than in January 1933. The demographic losses in 1933—1936 (without natural growth of population) made up 3,531,000. This figure can not be associated with exact number of famine victims, because there were considerable migration processes of population at the time. Besides, mass repressions in 1933—1937 claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, and added to the decrease of Ukraine's population. It's for Soviet

social scientists to establish the exact number of victims after the thorough investigations.

One thing remains doubtless in this context. The artificial famine was among the most heinous crimes of Stalin and his clique. The tragedy was the direct result of attempts to carry out socialist construction by methods of so-called military communism.

Forced collectivization, illegitimate appropriation procedures brought about profound degradation of agricultural production. Ukrainian people paid heavy price for these ruthless authoritarian methods. These criminal miscalculations are felt by the nation's agriculture even at present.

What does freedom of conscience mean in your country?

Most our citizens are atheists but the Soviet laws guarantee the right to profess any religion, forbid limitations of the believers' rights. Article 50 of the UkrSSR Constitution states: "Citizens of the Ukrainian SSR are guaranteed freedom of conscience, that is, the right to profess or not profess any religion, and to conduct religious workship or atheistic propaganda. Incitement of hostility or hatred on religious grounds is prohibited".

There are special laws in the Soviet legislation protecting believers, religious bodies and ministers of religions from any infringement of their legally fixed rights. The Soviet legislature forbids all types of discrimination of believers as well as any kinds of violence over their conscience. The Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR fixes the punishment in the form of fines or even imprisonment for up to 3 years for refusal to employ believers or enroll them at educational establishments.

The same measures are applied for groundless

sacking believers or expelling them from educational establishments.

The Soviet laws also specify that nobody has the right to refuse from fulfilling his civil duties or induce others to do so on religious grounds. The laws also prohibit to use religious congregations for political actions against the interests of the Soviet state, to call on believers to refuse from taking part in sociopolitical life, to conduct savage rites detrimental to people's health. However, such restrictions do not infringe on the freedom of conscience.

Proceeding from the call of their conscience, ministers of religion and believers take an active part in the activities of peace-loving forces. Their merits in this field have often been adequately marked. In 1976, for instance, the Metropolitan of Kiev and Galich, Exarch of Ukraine Filaret was awarded the jubilee medal of the World Peace Council for active participation in strengthening peace throughout the world. In 1979, he was decorated with a high government award — the Order of Friendship among Nations.

The Theological Academy of the Reformist Church in Hungary presented Exarch of Ukraine Metropolitan Filaret with the honorary degree Doctor of Theology.

What are the relations between the church and the state?

The Decree of the Provisional Workers-Peasants' Government of Ukraine, passed on January 22, 1919 fixed separation of the church from the state and the school from the church. The freedom of performing religious rites and the freedom of antireligious propaganda were granted to all citizens.

In 1929, "Resolution on religious associations" was

adopted which has been regulating the state-church relations till today.

In the 1930s, the authorities did much harm to believers. Quite a few churches, among them those of great historical value, were closed or ruined, the believers' rights and feelings were frequently ignored. Even in recent time, the officials sometimes showed a disdainful attitude to the church and believers. Now the time has come to correct the mistakes. Today, the church donates much to the Soviet Peace Fund, actively cooperates with the Society on protection of historical and cultural monuments, carries out the charitable activity. The Russian Orthodox Church made a ponderable contribution to the nation-wide support given to the victims of accident at the Chernobyl APS and the terrible earthquake in Armenia. Now, the state takes due measures to remove the barriers hindering the church in performing its social mission which involves opening the homes for old people, nursing the patients in hospitals, etc. At present, the new Law on Freedom of conscience, aimed at establishment of just relations between the church and the state under new historical conditions, is being drawn up.

In conformity to the acting legislation on religion, the religious organizations have the right to rent and purchase the required buildings and transportation means, to keep the workshops for manufacturing various religious items, to publish theological literature. The journal *Pravoslavny Visnyk* (Orthodox Herald), church calendars, theological works and other relevant materials are published for believers in Ukraine. The means of the church formed by voluntary donations are not taxed by the state.

Religious organizations function in compliance with the law specifying the order of creating the religious

communities, their rights, scope of activity and relations with the state.

The state assists the religious associations in creating the conditions for normal work. Lately, they have been given free of charge over 4 thousand houses of worship many of which are protected by the state as the historical monuments. Over the last three years alone, 105 churches and houses of worship were built or restored in the Republic.

What significance is attached by the Soviet historical science to the introduction of Christianity in Kiev Rus?

As is known, the population of Kiev Rus was baptized in the year 988, though Christianity had been quite popular long before that among merchants and nobility living in the Eastern Slavonic lands. For example, Princess Olga, the mother of Vladimir the Baptist, was a Christian. However, it is the year 988 which is the official date when Orthodoxy became the state religion in Kiev Rus.

Introduction of Christianity made a great influence upon the history of ancient Rus and its cultural development. Christianity stimulated the spreading of literacy, establishment of various educational establishments which were in no way inferior to those in Western Europe. The students studied there theology, languages, history, philosophy and other sciences. At that time, there were 48 universities in Europe, while in Kiev Rus — 16 schools. It is noteworthy that prior to the Tatar-Mongol invasion, education had been widely spread in ancient Rus. There also appeared such literary masterpieces as Metropolitan Illarion's *Meditations on Law and Beautitude*, and *The Tale of Igor's Host*.

Monasteries, the Kiev-Pechersk Lavra in the first hand, made a great contribution to development of literacy and culture, in general. Christianity also helped strengthen family ties, placed women on a par with men.

Introduction of Christianity favored the unification of all Rus principalities in a single state, brought about cardinal, progressive spiritual and moral changes in the life of society.

Oles Honchar, famous writer, public and state figure

After adoption of Christianity, the ties of Kiev Rus with Western Europe greatly expanded. Many kings of European countries deemed it as great honor to get married to the daughters of Kiev Princes. For instance, the daughters of Yaroslav the Wise were the queens of France and Norway.

Introduction of Christianity played a great role in formation and development of statehood in Kiev Rus.

How was the 1000th anniversary of the introduction of Christianity in the Rus State celebrated?

This date was an important event for all Christians. It was officially marked by UNESCO, and Christian churches took an active part in it. Only the Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Church celebrated not the 1000th anniversary of introduction of Christianity but that of "baptism of Ukraine". Such point of view is absolutely incorrect, Volodimir the Baptist was not and could not be the Ukrainian Prince since at that time Ukraine simply did not exist. There existed Kiev Rus populated by the Slavs.

"Baptism of Ukraine" was also proclaimed as groundless at the congregations abroad without the Russian Orthodox Church taking any part in it. The said two Churches contested the right of the Russian Orthodox Church to celebrate the anniversary stating that Moscow, being the center of the Russian Orthodox Church, did not exist at that time. True, the celebrations really commenced in Moscow, and Exarch of Ukraine, Metropolitan of Kiev and Galich Filaret explained this fact as follows: "Why in Moscow? Because it is the capital of our country. There we have the residence of the Patriarch and governing bodies of our Church. History proves that Moscow has always been the center of the Russian Orthodox Church".

International Church-Historical Conference, held in Kiev in 1986, was the first big event marking the preparation for celebrations. After this, the second conference "Theology and Spirituality of the Russian Orthodox Church" took place in Moscow. It was attended by 150 participants from 28 countries. Dominating at the conference were the efforts to reveal theological, scientific, historical and moral values essential for establishment of trust between East and West.

Two symposia, dedicated to the 1000th anniversary of introduction of Christianity in the Rus State, were held in the FRG. They confirmed high authority of the Russian Orthodox Church in the world, its ecumenical and peace-making merits.

According to the decision of the jubilee commission, approved by the Holy Synod and the Patriarch, celebrations started in Moscow and lasted from June 4 to 17. Solemn liturgy took place in the Epiphany Patriarch Cathedral.

The Local Council, the most important organ of the Russian Orthodox Church which was not convened from 1971, was held for 4 days in the Trinity-Saint Sergius Lavra Monastery, the Patriarch's residence.

The Council discussed various aspects of the Church activities including its foreign ties, peace-making efforts, publications and training of clergymen. The Council also adopted the status of managing the Russian Orthodox Church based on church traditions and canonical law stated in Nomocanon. It was emphasized that "peace but not war is natural for humankind".

After this, celebrations continued in Kiev, the cradle of the Russian Orthodox Church, the place of baptism and the capital of Kiev Rus.

Celebrations were attended by representatives of all Christian Churches, other faiths, international religious organizations with which the Russian Orthodox Church maintains ties. Besides, a lot of special

tourist groups came to the Soviet Union. The Church offered them very interesting program involving the visits of cathedrals, meetings with clergymen and laymen, etc.

Before the jubilee, published were the 5-volume history of the Russian Orthodox Church, the New Testament in Ukrainian, new edition of the Holy Bible, albums dedicated to the Orthodox holy places, cathedrals and monasteries, disks with church music, etc.

Erected at the Kiev Lavra walls was the monument to Nestor the Chronicle, the monk who wrote *The Chronicle of Bygone Years* telling "whence the Russian land took root..."

Celebrations started with festive ceremony in the Kiev Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet. Next day, a solemn divine service took place in St. Vladimir Cathedral attended by a huge crowd of believers, and in the evening there was a festive concert again in the theater in which the choir of the Volodimir Cathedral took part.

In the morning of June 16, a solemn service was held in the Kiev-Pechersk Lavra monastery on the territory of the Saint-Danyil Monastery turned over by the state to the Ukrainian Exarchate.

Then there was a reception at the Presidium of the UkrSSR Supreme Soviet. Its chairman V. S. Shevchenko met with a large group of representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, various Churches and religious associations from many countries. She highly appreciated the peace-making efforts on the part of the Orthodox Church.

After the reception, a solemn divine service was held on the Volodimir hill near the monument to Vladimir the Baptist. Then the guests came to the reception organized by Metropolitan Filaret.

Bell-tower in Kiev Pechersk Lavra Monastery

Celebrations evoked a great interest among the public. To participate in them, a lot of guests from Ukraine and other Republics came to Kiev.

The participants in celebration visited the Kiev's churches and monasteries; Ukrainian museum of history of the Great Patriotic War, 1941—1945, other sights. In their speeches and sermons they expressed their support to the peaceful policy of the USSR, to perestroika.

Cardinal J. Villerbrands, head of the secretariat on Christian unity of the Roman Catholic Church said: "Our meeting in Kiev was of great significance. Celebrations of the 1000th anniversary of introduction of Christianity go beyond the limits of the Christian world. In fact, our meeting here and participation in the celebrations are the dialogue so badly needed today."

Famous American peacher Bill Graham noted: "Participating in the celebrations is a happy experience for me. It was particularly important for me in these festive days to visit Kiev, to see this great city, big cultural center. Together, we celebrated a big event not only for the Soviet Union but also for the whole world."

Then, celebrations took place in Leningrad which was the capital of Russia for two centuries, and consequently, the center of church activity, and in the town of Volodimir. During the Tatar-Mongol invasion, the Metropolitan of Kiev founded his residence in this town which for a certain period of time became the center of the Russian Orthodox Church.

From June 18 to July 10, 1988, celebrations took place in all dioceses, churches and monasteries of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Solemn liturgy on the occasion of the 1000th Anniversary of introduction of Christianity in Old Rus being held at the monument to Prince Vladimir the Baptist

Are believers officially registered in your country?

No, they are not. As the Patriarch of Moscow and All-Russia Pimen said in interview for the Novosti Press Agency, "a person is not asked of his religion when applying for work, nor when receiving a passport, and so on."

Any suppression of the rights of believers, the clergy included, is strictly prohibited. Believers, like the clergy, are equal citizens of the USSR, they take an active part in political, economic and social life of our country. Metropolitan Oleksiy noted that, "today, the believers work hard for the good of the society, for preservation of peace on our planet, try to make a ponderable contribution to perestroika."

Only religious associations and clergymen are registered by the authorities. Today, in Ukraine, the Russian Orthodox Church has 14 dioceses, 10 monasteries, the Odessa theological college (it is also planned to open another theological college in Kiev). All in all, there are 4076 orthodox religious associations in Ukraine. There are also the parishes of the Roman Catholic Church (108), Reformist Church (81), Evangelic Christian-Baptist Union (1172), the Old Believers, Seventh Day Adventists, etc.

Can Ukrainians marry in church?

To have a church wedding or contract a civil marriage is the right of every young couple. Sometimes, young people get married in church but most of them prefer civil marriages.

The ancient folk wedding rituals gain popularity in the Republic. Wedding palaces and rooms for ceremonies have been opened in Ukrainian towns and villages where the couples are registered. They are usually presented with expensive gifts and often with

the keys to a new apartment by the collective where the couple work.

New socialist rituals are also popular in Ukraine. Over 12,000 halls and rooms for festive occasions function. They have at their disposal vocal groups, choirs and orchestras. Every region of Ukraine has its own peculiar ways of celebrating festive events.

Geographical center of Europe in the Ukrainian Carpathians

Why are the activities of the Greek Catholic Church prohibited in Ukraine?

Such Church does not exist in Ukraine. To correctly understand this fact, let us have a small excursion into history. After unification of Poland and Lithuania into a single state, Rzecz Pospolita, in 1569, Halichina, Volyn, Podillya and the present Poltava Region fell under the rule of Poland. Polish feudals strove to enslave the local inhabitants, convert them to Catholicism and Polonize them, to cut off their eternal ties with the fraternal Russian people. Social and national-religious oppression was intensified, Orthodox churches were ruined and all types of restrictions of the rights of town and country population introduced. The Ukrainian people waged a stubborn struggle against the oppressors.

Instigated by the Jesuit Order, King Sigismund III, the Polish nobility and the Catholic clergymen started to introduce the Union of the Orthodox Church with the Catholic under the patronage of the Pope. Some Ukrainian noblemen and Orthodox clergymen joined the .Uniate Church for mercantile reasons.

Bishops Hipatius Potiy and Cyril Terletsky, being the ardent supporters of the Union, went to Rome where they denounced their Orthodox faith and adopted Catholicism.

The Uniate Church, established and celebrated in Rome, was proclaimed in October 1596. That event took place in Brest at a small Uniate assembly consisting of a Metropolitan, four bishops, three archimandrites, Jesuits and royal commissars.

At the same time, an Orthodox assembly was held in Brest, the biggest in the entire history of Orthodoxy in Poland. The assembly unanimously denounced the Union. Decisions of those two assemblies were presented to the king for ratification, who, naturally,

approved the Uniate decree. Thus the Orthodox Church was prohibited in the Rzecz Pospolita.

So, this was how the Brest Church Union emerged in Ukraine. Here, for instance, is what Metropolitan Filaret said in this respect: "Every educated person, acquainted with the history of our country, fully understands the true aim of the Union. Instead of church union, the Union has always generated the splitting, hostility and hatred. The Union was an infringement on the conscience of the Orthodox Christians and served not the unity of the Church but the unity of internal organizations."

During the Nazi occupation of Ukraine, the Uniate leaders disgraced themselves in the eyes of the rank and file clergy and believers by the services rendered to invaders, betrayal of the interests of their people, active collaboration in enlisting the young men in the SS Division Galizien.

After liberation of the Western Ukrainian lands, reunion with the Soviet Ukraine in 1939 and victory over the Hitlerites, the adequate conditions were created for restoring not only the state but also church unity with the Orthodox believers of Ukraine.

The Lviv Church Council, held on March 8—10, 1946 terminated the Union Church activity in the Ukrainian land. The Council was convened by the initiative of a reunion group headed by Protopresbyter Havriil Kostelnyk when it had become known that the overwhelming majority of the clergy and laymen wanted to break away from the Uniate. 78 percent of clergymen united with the initiative group, the rest decided to wait for the outcome of the Council. After frank discussions, the resolution was passed on terminating the activities of the Brest Union, which, as H. Kostelnyk put it, "rotted through and through, and

In one of the Ukraine's preserves

found itself in a severe crisis" since the end of the 19th century.

Members of the Council took a unanimous decision that in a situation when "all Ukrainian lands were reunited and the Ukrainian people had become the masters of all their lands, it would be unwise to support the Uniate tendencies, and that it would be an unforgivable sin to continue in our people the hatred and fratricide cultivated by the Union." Proceeding from this, the Council decided to "denounce the decrees of the Brest Council of 1596, abolish the Union, and return to the Orthodox faith and Church."

Resolutions of the Council were supported by clergymen and believers. Desperate attempts were made in the West to proclaim that Council hasty, a minority, and the like. The remainders of the Galich Uniate Church, who had fled abroad, established the so-called "Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church."

The years that have passed since the Lviv Council, testify to the fact that reunification of the Western Ukrainian dioceses with the Russian Orthodox Church fully corresponds to spiritual needs and will of believers.

Territory, demography, towns

5 9—1200

TERRITORY, DEMOGRAPHY, TOWNS

What territory does Ukraine cover?

603.7 thousand square kilometers. Two such countries as Italy could be located in this area. Ukraine's territory is the 42nd in the world according to its size.

Ukraine is situated in the south-western European part of the USSR. In the west, the Republic borders on Poland and Czechoslovakia, in the south-west on Hungary, Rumania and the Moldavian SSR, in the north on the Byelorussian SSR, in the north-east on the Russian Federation.

The Ukraine's territory stretches for 1316 km from east to west, and for 893 km from north to south. A major part of the territory are plains with mountains being only in the west, the Carpathians, and in the extreme south of the Republic, the Crimean Mountains. The highest mountain is Hoverla in the Carpathians which is 2061 m high.

Ukraine is washed in the south by the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. The sea depth near the Ukrainian coast is not large, not more than 100—200 meters. Big depths near the shore are only near the south coast of the Crimea — up to 1-2 kilometers. The Sea of Azov is very shallow, shores low, with the length of its marine border being 1053 kilometers.

The main sea ports of Ukraine are Odessa, Illichovsk, Yalta, Feodosia, Sevastopol and Kerch at the Black Sea; Mariupol on the Sea of Azov; Izmail and Reni at the Danube; Kherson at the Dnieper and Nikolayev at the Southern Bug.

Thanks to good balneological conditions of the sea shores, Ukraine has become a popular place for recreation.

Ukraine is a densely populated and industrially developed Republic. What measures are taken here to ensure an adequate nature conservation?

High concentration of industrial enterprises and transport, intensive agriculture, rapid technological progress, limited forest, water and land resources, all these factors turn the nature conservation into a very acute problem.

A single nature conservation legislation has been adopted in Ukraine. It is specified in the UkrSSR Constitution, The Law on Nature Conservation of the Ukrainian SSR, Land, Water and Forest Code, law On Protection and Utilization of the Animal Kingdom, etc.

The Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR has set up the State Committee of the Ukrainian SSR on Nature Conservation. Discussed at the highest state level are important ecological issues.

However, industrial development often takes place without taking into account the ecological factors and carrying out the single nature conservation policy. Waste-free technologies are not yet employed on a broad scale. Nature in Ukraine is polluted most of all by the industrial enterprises functioning in such branches as gas production, power engineering, chemistry and metallurgy.

Early in 1989, the Soviet Government passed the resolution on cardinal restructuring of nature conservation system. The efforts are made to create the economic mechanism which would channel the industrial activities to nature protection. The role of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences in ecological

expertise has greatly expanded. In 1989, 400 mln rubles were allocated in Ukraine from the state budget for nature conservation work. Industrial enterprises paid 50 mln rubles.

Local bodies of state power are provided with broad rights in this sphere. Every industrial enterprise has its own ecological departments. The said State Committee can veto any project which does not meet the requirements of nature protection: The Committee has a public council involving scientists, ministers, writers, public figures.

The role of public in nature protection activities keeps growing. The Ukrainian Society on Nature Protection has the membership of 19.5 mln people, 82 thousand branches. Some informal associations are engaged in nature protection activities. They organize ecological meetings whose participants call upon the state bodies, building and industrial enterprises to take due measures concerning nature conservation.

The Ukraine's public expressed a deep concern as regards the grave consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl APS. Due to the public's activities, construction of the Chihirin and Odessa atomic power stations, as well as the Danube-Dnieper canal and the Dnieper-Bug water power development has been stopped. Today, the local public stands up for stopping the construction of the Crimean APS. Atmospheric pollution in such industrial cities as Zaporizhya, Dnipropetrovsk and Dniprodzerzhinsk has been reduced.

The Republic's public and state bodies has made a great progress in the nature conservation field. Regardless of the growing industrial output, the amount of eject harmful substances has not increased. Within the last 7 years, over 28,000 hectares of shelterbelts, 110,000 hectares of plantings in ravines and on sandy soils were created. The green zones in towns have been considerably expanded. The area of preserves

has been increased by 243,000 hectares over the said period of time.

There exist eleven state preserves and four large game forest areas in Ukraine. Such preserves as Chornomorsky, Carpathian and Ukrainian Steppe are actually unique. The Askaniya-Nova (south of the Republic) with its famous zoo and virgin steppe is not only a preserve and an original nature lab but a part of the Earth's history as well. UNESCO has included

Kherson. New residential area Korabely

Chornomorsky and Askaniya-Nova in the international network of biospheric preserves.

All these preserves play a big role in fulfillment of the International Biological program. Europe's first national park covering an area of 430 sq kilometers is being created in the Carpathians.

International cooperation of the Republic in nature conservation fields gets expanded. The National Committee of the Ukrainian SSR for UNESCO Program "Man and Biosphere" has been established under the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences. Recently, Ukraine has entered the International Reference System for Sources of Environmental Information (INFOTERRA) whose chief aim is promotion of development of national systems of ecological information, dissimination of advance experience in the field of nature conservation.

Recently, the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR participated in special session of UNEP (The UN Environment Program) which adopted the general medium term program on nature conservation for the period of 1990—1995.

How is the aftermath of Chernobyl tragedy liquidated?

The mass media of Ukraine, the USSR and the world gave most thorough coverage of the reasons behind the Chernobyl disaster, its grim consequences, also selfless struggle of thousands with the catastrophe, heavy toll of Chernobyl, and criminal negligence displayed by certain key-managers. All this is known but too well to the public, which followed the development of dramatic events with keen interest and genuine compassion.

What is the state of affairs at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station at present? What is the current radio-

active situation in the regions which suffered pollution of different degrees?

The stricken power unit No. 4 was entombed under the concrete sarcophagus. Titanic effort was the price for it. But inside the sarcophagus there are the remnants of radioactive fuel. Radioactive and thermal processes still continue under the layers of concrete. The well-justified question arises here: can the remaining source of radioactivity bring about some unpredictable situation which can render the entombed unit once more uncontrollable?

The concrete structure was designed and constructed in such a way so as to make all radioactive discharges into environment impossible disregarding the situation inside the crippled power unit. The situation is under constant control which is being carried out by special diagnostic equipment. The temperature inside the sarcophagus tends to fall gradually. All basic parameters characterizing the situation within the stricken power unit testify to the dying of the dangerous process. The scientists continue to study the problem dealing with duration of the sarcophagus' existence. Its complete liquidation is the crucial task facing our generation. No wonder, the stricken reactor will be "running idle" some 30—40 years because of irreversible chain reaction.

On the basis of thorough analysis of the accident, the scientists worked out a broad complex of measures which are supposed to prevent the nation from repetition in future of similar catastrophes or from emergence of situations which could lead to dangerous deviations from normal working regime of a nuclear power plant.

In order to ensure absolute security at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station, the power engineers decided

Circus in Donetsk

ЦИРК КОСМОС ПАРК

to change some physical characteristics of the so-called active zone, and also the chemical composition of nuclear fuel utilized in three operating units of the power plant. Considerably increased was the speed of automatic systems controlling reactor's activity. The systems themselves were doubled several times over.

It was decided to suspend construction of power units equipped with reactors of the RBMK-type, which operate in the Chernobyl Power Station. Certain measures were taken to radically improve the training of personnel for nuclear power stations. A special document dealing with professional selection and control of psychophysiological characteristics of employees was drafted.

Huge decontamination work was carried out. Neutralized were 21 million sq. m of equipment's surfaces. Decontamination procedures were conducted in 600 nearby villages within the 30-kilometer zone and beyond it. The territory lying within 5-10 kilometer radius around the station will be sealed off for quite a long time. Established here will be a sort of training ground or open-to-air lab for research in various radiobiological and physical problems. As for the rest of the territory within the 30-km danger zone, the medical scientists consider that people may return here for permanent residence in two or three years. Truth must be said, that this issue is being disputed in the country's press. As of 1988, this region was gradually utilized by the national economy. It is planned, for example, to create here a powerful base for production of seed potato.

Work is gradually diminishing around the Chernobyl NPS. Certain well-trained groups, which successfully carried out their tasks, will be reorganized into emergency-and-technical center. The latter will be provided with robotized facilities, equipment and materials. The center will be adequately mobile and

well-equipped, in order to quickly arrive to the site of an accident at the station and be able to expertly carry out all instructions of local management responsible for its liquidation.

Due to decontamination procedures, and general improvement work conducted in points of habitation, also due to the natural decomposition of radionuclei, the gamma background lessened in formerly contaminated districts by 2—10 times since the catastrophe. For example, in Kiev, according to the statistics of the Kiev-based All-Union Center for Radiological Medicine, the general background of gamma radiation constitutes 0.035—0.045 milliroentgens per hour, which corresponds to safety standards. (For the sake of comparison, it is noteworthy that the natural radiation background in Kiev constitutes 0.02 milliroentgen).

. To what extent can the tragedy's consequences affect the human health?

Preliminary estimates testify that possible extra death rate related to the Chernobyl accident will constitute only 0.011 percent across the Republic. After the accident, over 2,000 women affected by radiation gave birth to absolutely healthy children. The medical experts found no deviations from normal in their physical or mental condition. Thorough analysis of health of mothers and children gives all grounds to assert that they will not suffer in future. Medical check-ups of population didn't reveal dangerous changes in the health of population, which could be associated with harmful influence of radioactive background.

Bodies of health care, special scientific centers and disease preventing centers continue to study the health conditions of population from regions subjected to radioactive pollution.

Materials dealing with influence of the catastrophe on population's health were handed over to the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The estimates given by Soviet scientists coincide with estimates of Western researchers specializing in this branch. The US magazine *Science* carried a report written by fellow researchers of the Livermore Laboratory affiliated to the Institute for Electroenergetic Research in Pelo Altota. (In its turn the famous research center is affiliated to Columbia University.) According to the conclusion made in this report there would be no serious changes in health conditions of the population both in the Soviet Union and other countries. The Chernobyl radioactive fallouts beyond the boundaries of danger zone may possibly affect in the long run some groups of people. But the number of diseases caused by this long-term influence will be very absolutely insignificant. Therefore, the change in the number of the sick will hardly differ from natural fluctuations.

The number of predicted additional cancers caused by the Chernobyl accident will be between zero and 17 thousand in the world. If the "ceiling" would be reached, the number of Chernobyl victims is unlikely to exceed 0,003 percent from the so-called "normal" death rate of cancer cases. The proportion would be too small to define it more or less accurately.

The same opinion is shared now by Robert Gale who headed a group of specialists who arrived to the USSR for treatment of people suffering from radiation sickness.

However, the consequences of the tragedy are still in the center of attention of the Party and the Government. During its regular sitting in January 1989, the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee discussed the state of affairs in certain districts of the Byelorus-

sian SSR and also some provinces of Ukraine which suffered radioactive pollution. It was pointed out that considerable amount of work was carried out on polluted territories. It was done for creation of secure conditions for population's life and work. Over the past period, almost 900 million rubles were spent for these purposes. Constructed for the evacuees were the houses with total floor space exceeding 720 thousand sq m, also some 400 objects of social, cultural and everyday purpose. Special resolution dealing with this vital problem was adopted. According to it the central economic bodies, ministries and departments were ordered, with participation of local and Soviet organs, to take additional measures for furthering the work connected with liquidation of the tragedy's consequences. To do this, it is envisaged to allocate adequate material and technical means.

It was also decided not to construct the second section of the Chernobyl APS consisting of six power units. The same concerns the building of the fifth and sixth power units at the already operating Chernobyl APS, the Nuclear thermal Power Plants in Odessa and Kharkiv.

Taking into account the grim lessons of Chernobyl, the USSR proposed to the IAEA consideration the program for safe development of nuclear power engineering. In particular, it was suggested to render international assistance in case of such dangerous situations. The Soviet Union proposed to organize joint research in different branches of nuclear power engineering, to work out reactors of new generation, etc.

The Chernobyl tragedy convincingly proved that negligent attitude even towards the so-called peaceful atom may bring about tragic results. It is only natural that brandishing the nuclear weapons may trigger the global holocaust. Comprehending this, the Soviet Union

persistently struggles for complete liquidation of nuclear arsenals, comes out with new initiatives in this very field.

How many Ukrainians are there in Ukraine?

As of January 1, 1989, some 51.7 million people lived in Ukraine. Of them, approximately three-quarters are Ukrainians. Ukrainians also live in the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Moldavia, other Union Republics and enjoy all rights granted to citizens of these Republics. According to statistics, in the USSR there live almost 42.5 million Ukrainians. In addition, over 4 mln Ukrainians live abroad.

Are there many retired people in Ukraine?

Almost 13 mln people get state pensions in Ukraine. Maintenance in old age is fully covered by the state. Men retire at the age of 60, women at 55. Workers and employees engaged in underground work, metallurgy, foundaries retire 5-10 years earlier. The retirement age is lowered among certain other groups of working people as well. The average size of pensions is 60 percent of wages and salaries and 100 percent for certain categories of people who belong to the low income category. Average size of pensions is 90 rubles per month in this country. The number of retired people receiving 100 rubles per month and more is quickly growing. The new Law on maintenance in old age will help considerably improve the material position of retired people.

A great significance is attached to the problem of prolonging the labor activity of the people who have reached the age of retirement.

Today, many pensioners continue working in the national economy, and their number is growing. 90 percent

of them get both pensions and wages and salaries. In the beginning of the 60s only each 10th pensioner worked, but now each third continues to work after retirement. It means that each pensioner wishing to be employed can find the job he likes. However, not all retired people able to work do so. This is partially explained by the fact that there exists the limit in the size of pensions and earnings. If their total sum exceeds this limit, the amount of pension correspondingly decreases.

Today the retired people are offered broad opportunities in the sphere of individual labor activities and coops. Working here, they receive the whole amount of pensions regardless of their earnings.

The state has set up a great number of boarding houses and specialized sanatoriums for handicapped persons and the people of advanced age. A special service on helping the elderly people at the place of residence functions in Ukraine.

How many town and city dwellers are there in Ukraine?

Over the last decade, the number of people living in urban areas grew by more than 4 millions and today it constitutes 67 percent of the Republic's population. The number of rural dwellers decreased by almost 2.1 million as a result of their moving to towns, and also as a result of transformation of rural settlements into towns. This process has been brought about by constant development of industry and transport, by the large-scale construction, mechanization and raising the efficiency in agriculture.

Before the October Revolution, 19 percent of Ukraine's population lived in towns. In 1966, the number reached 51 percent.

As of January 1989, there were 434 towns in the

Republic whereas in the prewar year 1940 their number was 255. In other words, five towns annually appeared in Ukraine after the Republic was liberated from the Hitlerites. Such a rapid townbuilding rate was possible due to spectacular economic advance. New towns are built, as a rule, near the big construction sites.

There exist 50 cities in the Republic whose population exceeds 100,000. In five towns (Kiev, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Odessa and Donetsk) upwards of 1 mln dwellers live. Zaporizhya, Lviv, Kriviy Rih and Mariupol have from 500 to 800 thousand inhabitants. 80 percent of Ukrainian towns are of small and average size and they are given priority as to the boosting their socioeconomic development. The construction of enterprises, except for those serving the needs of local inhabitants has been limited in the Ukrainian towns with the population exceeding 500,000. Industrial development in big towns takes place chiefly as the result of reconstruction of existing enterprises. Such state policy is aimed at solving the important socioeconomic problems, involving reduction of pollution, efficient use of labor resources, etc.

Kiev is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful cities of the world over and one of the most ancient cities in the Soviet Union. What is its role as the capital of Ukraine?

One should keep in mind that once it was the capital of Kiev Rus and also played a great role in formation of the Ukrainian nation. At the end of the 9th century, Kiev became the political, administrative and trade center of the ancient Rus State. Today, more than 90 scientific establishments in many countries are engaged in the studies of the Kiev Rus's history.

Today, Kiev is political, economic and cultural center of Ukraine. As to its population, it is the third in

the Soviet Union. Compared to 1960, the city's population has doubled and constitutes today 2.6 millions. One apartment is built here every 20 minutes. Over the period of 1975—1988 some 1.5 million Kievites moved into new apartments. Housing construction is carried out on free areas, on all sides. Such an approach to construction makes it possible to build new housing estates complete with apartment buildings,

Shopping center in Lviv Square in Kiev

educational, cultural and trade establishments. The biggest new housing estate is Obolon. It is located on artificial "sand pillow" and houses some 200,000 residents. Another big housing estate is Troeshchina spread out along the picturesque banks of the Desna River.

Kiev's industry is a well-developed branch. Goods made by its enterprises are exported to 60 countries. Produced here are automatic machine tools and silk, precision instruments and excavators, ocean trawlers and planes, cameras and computers, etc.

Kiev is one of the largest scientific centers in this country. An overwhelming majority research institutions of the UkrSSR Academy of Sciences function here. They are engaged in development and solution of important fundamental and applied problems of modern science. Located in Kiev are 130 branch scientific-research and design institutes.

18 institutions of higher learning, where 151,000 students study, train highly skilled specialists for national economy, science and culture and for foreign countries as well.

Creative unions of writers, composers, journalists, architects, artists and actors function in the capital. There are almost 150 theaters, palaces of culture, clubs. Enjoying great popularity in this country and abroad are the Kiev Opera and Ballet Theater named after Taras Shevchenko, the Ukrainian State Folk Choir named after Hrihory Viryovka, the Capella of Bandura Players and Ukrainian Dance Company named after Pavlo Virsky.

The Kievites are proud of their 70 museums, among which are the Pechersk-Lavra State Historic Preserve, Shevchenko State Museum, Saint-Sophia Cathedral, etc.

18 newspapers and some 60 magazines are published in the capital.

Kiev is a city-monument of Slav history, culture and architecture. Archeologists, historians, linguists and scientists in other fields came to the conclusion that the city was founded 1500 years ago.

On the occasion of the jubilee celebration in spring, 1982, the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR introduced the medal "In memory of the 1500th Kiev Foundation Anniversary" which was presented to thousands of Kievites, those who made a ponderable contribution to the city's development.

Quite a few outstanding monuments of the past were restored, among them the Golden Gates, Samson Fountain, historic St. Andrew Descent along which Prince Igor led his warriors in the 10th century, and many others.

The chestnut trees have become a symbol of Kiev. The chestnut tree blossom adorns the emblem of Kiev, one of the world's greenest cities. There are almost 20 sq meters of greenery per a Kievite within the city's limits. This is twice as much as in New York and London.

Kiev is surrounded by pine forests on the north, east and west, and by oak groves in the south. The green belt, 50 km wide, encircles the capital. More than a half of Kiev's territory is covered by parks on the Dnieper's banks, chestnut and maple tree lanes, pine groves in Darnitsya district, botanical gardens and squares.

According to the city's general plan of development, the greenery's area will have increased more than 1.5 times by the year 2000. New parks are laid near construction sites. In order to preserve and expand the park area, Kievites plant millions of saplings each year.

Each May, Kievites celebrate "The Day of Kiev". This is a great and exciting event here for everybody. The St. Andrew Descent has become the place where

painters, artists and sculptors exhibit their works for sale. Thousands of local dwellers come to the Central Park to enjoy the performance of folk art groups.

How many women are there in Ukraine?

54 percent. In 1940, they made up 52 percent, and 56 percent in 1959. This is explained by a great number of men killed in WWII. Today we have more women of advanced age. As far as young men and women are concerned, their number is roughly equal, though the latter's number in towns is slightly bigger.

Do you publish the data about crime in Ukraine?

Starting from 1982, such data are published. As against 1987, the number of offences in the Republic somewhat increased. Most frequent were property crimes. In some regions, offences against person grew in number, one-fifth of them were committed in the state of alcoholic intoxication. In 1988, over 6000 persons were charged with making, keeping or selling the home-distilled vodka. 19,000 criminal violations of traffic motor vehicle driving rules were registered.

Do you publish statistical information of demographic character, such as average life expectancy, infantile mortality, etc?

Already in the late 70s the demographic information was stopped to be published in Ukraine as well as in the USSR. Only glasnost policy changed the state of affairs in national statistics. After protracted silence, the State Committee for Statistics began to publish collections dealing with separate branches of statistics, questions of demography being among them.

What information do the published materials contain? In the first place, the publishers come out with the following conclusion that Republic's population is getting older on the whole. If in 1951 pension-age people (men beginning from the age of 60, women from the age of 55) constituted barely more than 11 percent, their proportion reached in 1987 some 20.5 percent; particularly in rural areas it equalled 27.7 percent (proportion of able-bodied population was 56.1 and 49.1 percent respectively). This was connected with sharp drop in the birth rate in the 1960s — 1970s. As a result of growing birth rate in the 1980s the proportion of children and teenagers up to sixteen reached 23.4 percent in 1987.

Regrettably, the number of births is lower than the number of deaths among the rural population of Ukraine. In other words, migration into urban areas exceeds the natural population growth in the country in rural areas.

The number of abortions, which was kept secret from population constitutes more than one hundred a year per 1,000 women from the age of 15 to 49. Average life expectancy of men in Ukraine makes up 66 years; of women — 74 years. Life expectancy indices are still lower than in many other countries of the world. In order to increase duration of life, it is envisaged to invest more money into national health system. As for infantile mortality, it corresponds in Ukraine as well as Byelorussia and the Baltic republics, to the indices of such advanced countries as West Germany, the USA and France. In 1988, the indices of birth and death rate of population constituted 14.6 and 11.6 per one thousand against 14.8 and 11.4 in 1987.

The infantile mortality (death of infants under 12 months per 1,000 births) lowered from 14.6 in 1987 to 13.9 in 1988.

In Ukraine, 38,4 percent of women born in the first half of the 1960s, married while still under 20 years of age.

In the mid-80s, the number of divorces per one thousand families lessened if compared with the end of the last decade. Besides, the number of devorcees who remarried also went up.

The above shows that the secrecy veil around information about demographical processes in the Republic begins to disappear.

Economy, employment, well-being

ECONOMY. EMPLOYMENT. WELL-BEING.

How does the national income of Ukraine grow? How is it utilized?

Republic's economy gradually overcomes the difficulties inherent in the long period of stagnation. Progressive tendencies assert themselves. New methods of economic management have gained force. The principle of complete self-financing has already begun to give positive results. The rates of economic advancement went up and effectiveness of public production was increased. There are certain positive tendencies in social reorientation of the economy. Being created are the conditions for wide implementation of collective, lease and family contracts, also for development of other progressive forms of organization and remuneration of labor. The number of workforce engaged in material production decreased rather than increased. The less number of workers in Ukraine and in the USSR on the main continues to increase material production.

As a result of all these undertakings carried out since the beginning of the current five year plan (1986), Ukraine overfulfilled the planned task in increase of the national income. However, this praiseworthy result necessitated considerable strain. The thing is that in 1986—1987, the growth of the national income (2.7 and 2.9 percent respectively) was below the planned level (3.65). In other words, it remained below the lowest permissible level.

Considerable changes took place in Ukraine's economy in 1988. As a result, the national income of the Republic was increased by 3.8 percent. All of its in-

crement was achieved at the expense of growing productivity of public labor. Average annual growth rates of the national income in 1987—1988 were almost 1.5 times higher than in previous five year plan. In 1988, the national income of Ukraine constituted almost 105 billion rubles, which roughly equals 175 billion US dollars.

It was planned to raise Republic's national income by 3.8 percent. Three-fourths of it should be utilized for consumption. Together with expenditures for housing, social and cultural construction, upwards of four-fifths of the national income is channelled for the people's well-being. More money is spent on exactly this purpose with every next year than on build-up and expanding the economy. Per capita volume of the national income is growing steadily. This allows to increase the salaries which regrettably outstrip the growth of labor productivity and production of consumer goods. Furthermore, being improved (although at a slower rate than it was planned) are living conditions. Similarly, commodity circulation and consumer level are on the upgrade.

Can you tell same information about the Ukraine's state budget?

To begin with, the State Budget of Ukraine is deficit-free (i. e., the incomes exceed expenditures). By way of example, in 1987, incomes to the budget were 636 million rubles higher than spendings.

In 1989, the Session of the Ukr. SSR Supreme Soviet endorsed the State Budget constituting 36 billion 980 million rubles. It is 11 percent higher as compared to the 1988 State Budget. This growth is absolutely realistic. It is based on planned estimates of economy's development, commodity circulation, sphere of services, system of transportation, etc. As before,

socialist enterprises had the major say in the budget incomes in 1989. They had to bring 90 percent of all incomes. Decisive changes took place in formation of sums deduced from the incomes of enterprises. The thing is that the enterprises of the Republic were granted a number of benefits as for utilization of the aboveplanned incomes for their purposes. Deductions from incomes of plants, factories and industrial amalgamations decreased considerably in 1989 against 1988. The pays of population constitute now 9.6 percent in the annual budget.

The largest part of state expenditures constituting more than 43 percent of budget were channelled in 1989 for financing social and cultural undertakings as well as for science. For the same purpose, sums are allotted by the State, cooperatives, TU enterprises, organizations, also by collective farms. Such expenditures grew by almost 6 percent in 1989. The means were spent in the first place for development of people's education, realization of the reform involving secondary and higher school, also for strengthening the material and technical base of health institutions, for better food in hospitals, for further increase of salaries of health-care workers.

Does Ukraine maintain economic ties with other Union Republics on equal basis?

The economy of the Soviet Union is a single economic complex involving all echelons of social production, planned distribution and exchange in the country's territory which ensures a proportional economic progress and adequate specialization of each Republic. In this country, the economic potential and rich natural deposits are placed at the service of the entire multinational state and each Republic in particular.

In the West, there is a certain category of people

who not only try to ignore the achievements of the Soviet Union but who make an attempt to distort them. One of their interpretations is the allegation concerning the inequality of Ukraine's economic ties with other Republics.

Harmonious combination of interests of each Union Republic is a guiding and unshakable principle for the Soviet people. Perestroika of socioeconomic life demands even greater integration.

The friendship among the Soviet nations revealed itself particularly strongly at difficult, often tragic, events in the country's history. This was the case when combatting the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl APS when all Union Republics helped Ukraine. Another vivid proof is the support being given by the Soviet Government, all Soviet nations to the population of Armenia suffered from terrible earthquake. Citizens of Ukraine donated 14 mln rubles to the fund of assistance to Armenia. Ukraine supplied drugs, construction material, machinery to this areas damaged by the earthquake. Builders from our Republic construct a new town in Armenia.

One cannot doubt the fact that Ukraine and other republics are making a rapid progress thanks to their united efforts. Those branches of industry and agriculture for which there exist the most favorable natural and economic conditions are developed most intensively in each Republic. Ukraine delivers a certain amount of her goods to other Union Republics and receives from them the items which she does not produce or produces in insufficient quantity. In the last few years, the growth rates of goods supplied to Ukraine from the Union Republics surpassed the amount of her deliveries to them. For instance, thanks to import from the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan, the Republic

Rolling mill "3600" at Azovstal metallurgical works

meets her demand in natural gas by almost one-fourth, oil and oil products by 90 percent, nonferrous metals by one half. Every industrial item manufactured in Ukraine is the joint effort of all Soviet nations. For example, parts required for manufacture of Lviv buses are delivered from almost 500 enterprises of the country.

In her turn, Ukraine supplies the Union Republics with the products of ferrous metallurgy, machine-building, coal and food industries. A major role in the Ukraine's inter-Republican ties belong to deliveries of production means accounting for almost three-quarters of the total volume of export.

There exist thousands of economic ties between Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Almost 80 percent of all inter-Republican cargo turnover of Ukraine fall on the Russian Federation. The latter supplies Ukraine with machinery, oil and its products, different kinds of machine tools receiving in return electric power, coal, iron ore, rolled metal, fertilizers, cement.

Perestroika has created the conditions for further essential perfection of relations between the Soviet nations which will help strengthen their scientific, economic and cultural ties. The new law is being drawn up concerning more clear definition of the status of each Republic, establishment of more harmonious relations between the all-Union and local economic bodies.

What are the most common features of the Soviet economic policy?

To begin with, the USSR's economic policy corresponds to all economic laws of socialism. Meant in the first place is the principal law of socialism: from each according to his abilities to each according to his/hers labor contribution. The main aim is in ensuring the unswering enhancement of people's well-being. On this

basis rests the similarly important objective of all-round development of personality, which constitutes the supreme social goal. Among the means of attaining this objective are the overall development of public production and constant perfection of forms and methods of management, also all-round activization of the so-called human factor, as the most important precondition of social and economic progress. The man was put in the center of all profound and complex processes. The 27th Congress of the CPSU stressed with special emphasis that without restructuring of human consciousness, psychology and thinking all changes are absolutely impossible. Human factor is crucial in acceleration. Enhancement of erudition, and professional qualification of the working people is an important means in activization of the human factor.

If in the past, the national economy was developing in extensive way (i. e., at the expense of additional labor and material resources involved into production process), at present it is developing according to intensive methods on the basis of accelerated scientific and technical progress. The 27th Congress of the CPSU resolved to double until the year 2,000 the economic potential which was built over whole preceding period of Soviet power since 1917 (i. e. more than 70 years).

The economic policy worked out during the 27th Congress of the CPSU and at the ensuing Plenary Meetings of the CPSU Central Committee, created all possibilities to discard the centralized command and administrative methods of management and adopt progressive economic methods of management in all levels of the national economy. The economic policy previews activization of the individual labor activity, development of cooperation, optimal combination of the centralization principles with independence of the major production links and democratization of the economy.

As is seen, reinforcement of the economic methods of planned economy is the most characteristic feature of the contemporary Soviet economic policy. Among other traits are the right of the enterprises to establish direct economic contacts with foreign partners, creation of their own currency fund, leasing the land to separate families, offering the lease to workers to run their own enterprises, creation of plant-based joint-stock societies and release of shares for employees involved in production process. In 1989, the USSR and Ukraine in particular completed transition of all industrial branches and separate nonproductive branches (organizations) of the national economy to complete self-financing. Considerably expanded was the wholesale trade involving means of production. The number of centralized indices established for enterprises by the State institutions was considerably decreased. The rights, independence and responsibilities of the enterprises, and of the local territorial bodies were similarly expanded.

Over the years following the Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee in May 1985, the country managed to achieve certain positive changes. In the first place it concerns the priorities of economy, its greater orientation on social goals, and increase of labor productivity. In 1988, the commodity circulation was considerably increased. This high increase wasn't reached by the country for quite a few years. The number of services offered to and used by the population increases at an envious rate. The level of consumption also went up. The country has embarked on an unprecedented construction program involving apartment houses, day-care centers, health institutions, polyclinics, community centers, houses of culture, etc. The rejuvenating processes of perestroika have penetrated all spheres of Soviet life. They put into action all economic potentials. However, the breaking mechanism

hampering economic and socio-political advancement of the country is being overcome with enormous difficulties. The situation with finances and monetary circulation is improving with painful slowness. The mechanism of taxation policy is far from perfect. But exactly this mechanism must flexibly react to the economic situation and stimulate progressive tendencies in certain branches of the national economy. The policy of prices necessitates radical revision. During his

Salt mine in Donetsk Region

speech in early 1989, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed the direct dependence in solution of today's economic problems on complete liquidation of command and bureaucratic system and successful realization of the political reform.

What is the effect of perestroika on the Republic's industrial development?

In brief, the influence is quite satisfactory. Success is visible. However, a number of serious problems haven't been overcome. The average yearly volume of industrial production from 1986 to 1988 was increased by almost 4.5 percent, which exceeds the planned tasks for this period. Implementation of progressive basic technologies was similarly increased. The terms of implementation of machinery and equipment decreased by two times. Two times more of outdated manufactured goods are being removed from production process. Only in 1988, the enterprises managed to start mass production of more than 700 items of new machinery, equipment, apparatus and devices. The increase of produce released by machine-building complex of the country exceeds the growth rates of general industrial production.

In 1987—1988, manufacture of consumer goods was ahead of manufacture of production means. Exactly this result was expected.

In the late 1988, the Republic's authorities publicly declared that the national economy of Ukraine, particularly its industry, were still developing in obsolete extensive way, preserving in general the profitless character. According to the commentaries of the Ukrainian press more than 1,700 enterprises of the Republic were profitless in 1988. Despite the general growth of production every fifth enterprise lessened its production in 1988 compared to the preceding year. The

light industry still fails to satisfy demands of market and consumers. Lagging exists in production of TV sets, radioelectronic appliances short-wave radios, tape-recorders, motorcycles and vacuum-cleaners.

Have you any positive changes in agricultural field?

To begin with, let's consider the most important statistical information. In 1986, (the first year of the 12th Five Year Plan period), the Republic harvested more than 43 million tons of grain. In 1987 and 1988, this figure constituted more than 50 and almost 47.5 million tons respectively. The result is higher than any average annual harvest achieved in preceding years. This fact testifies that there have been certain changes along these lines, and that the harvests began to depend less on weather conditions. There is yet one more index. Over the recent period, the Republic was producing more than 4 million tons of meat per year. This is the highest achievement of Ukraine in meat production over all of its history. On the main, the volume of almost all types of agricultural produce has been increasing with every year of the 12th five-year plan. The USSR ranks the first in the world in production of wheet, barley, oats, sugar beet, sunflower seed, flax, potatoes, milk and eggs.

However, the food problem remains a sore spot in our society's life. This is the most acute problem of today's economy. Collective and state farms operating in Ukraine and in other constituent republics of the Soviet Union were granted extremely wide rights for increasing production of grain-growing and cattle-breeding. However, the results haven't shown up yet. The growth achieved in production of foodstuffs is sufficient only to cover the needs connected with growth of population.

Agriculture as well as all other branches of agroindustrial complex suffered a lot from administrative and command methods of management which bear full responsibility for deterioration of the country's agriculture and its inability to meet the country's needs. At present, these outdated managerial tactics are being replaced with genuine economic methods. Restructuring penetrated all constituent elements of agroindustrial complex of the country, including organizational structures, planning, price formation, financing, crediting, wage system, etc. Endorsement of Laws on State Enterprise/Amalgamation, on Cooperation, and resolutions of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Government about transition of enterprises and organizations affiliated to the agroindustrial complex to complete self-financing created necessary conditions for all progressive forms of production. Meant in the first place are the collective and lease contracts, different types of cooperatives operating within the framework of collective and state farms (their number in Ukraine is 7,600 and 2,500, respectively). Over the recent years, principally new types of agroindustrial formations emerged in the rural areas of the Republic (i. e. amalgamations, complexes, firms, enterprises specializing in agrarian trade, etc). Quick progress of these forms as well as of collective and state farms is hampered by still excessive centralization of management, striving to resolve a lot of even most insignificant problems on the upper rungs of managerial mechanism.

New processes in country's agriculture gave grounds to certain economists in the West to doubt the necessity of further existence of the state and collective farms. But the economic practice vividly demonstrates that collective and state farms used to be and remain the foundation of socialist agriculture, the main source for creating the reliable food fund in the country. The

CPSU and the socialist state put forward an important task which aim is to breathe a new life into the system of collective and state farms. It is planned to do it at the expense of all-round modernization of production relations, further development of inter-farm cooperatives and lease system. Collective farms are turning into amalgamations of primary cooperatives (i. e., teams, sections, families) which work on contract,

Assembly shop of the Kiev computer-manufacturing plant

lease and other self-financing principles. They turn into cooperatives within coop societies by intertwinning with each other, with state farms, with most different enterprises and finally form intermanagerial cooperatives (e. g. production ones, trade ones, those dealing with supplies, etc). As a result, the cooperative socio-economic structure begins to shape up. Its creation and further advancement must become an important step in practical realization of ideas proclaimed by Vladimir Lenin, the founder of the Soviet State. According to Vladimir Lenin, socialism is a society of civilized cooperators.

As is seen, Ukraine's agriculture began to better satisfy consumer demands of the population. However, these needs are still ahead of agricultural production.

There is a thought current in the country at present that lease system is a universal remedy which will garantee a breakthrough from the crisis situation. Why do you place such great hopes on it? What forms does it acquire?

The lease system is acquiring exclusive significance in Ukraine as well as in the whole of the Soviet Union. The lease relations constitute not only great socio-economic reserve for increasing effectiveness of production. The lease is also one of the major means of strengthening the sense of master, overcoming the faults caused by administrative and command system of management. While preserving state and cooperative ownership, the lease system overcomes the pityful state of affairs when the property actually belonged to no one. The lease established direct connection between the salary and the end result of production process. Being worked out at present is a special Law on Lease.

The lease relations appeared first in agriculture within the framework of radical economic reform. These relations proved very effective. By way of example, the harvest of crops in lease collectives is 10—15 percent higher per hectare than in old-type farms of the country. The same concerns yield of milk when the lease collective manage to get 600-1000 kg more per cow than their counterparts working in traditional agricultural systems. The salaries of lessees grow parallel to higher labor productivity.

The same proves the experience of lease relations in Dzerzhinsky District of Zhitomir Region.

In 1988, production of meat increased here by 8 and milk by 10 percent as compared to the preceding year. The profits scored by cattle-breeding reached 1 million 113 thousand rubles.

In 1988, the lease was utilized in 47 percent of farms throughout Ukraine. The lessees received upwards of 5 million hectares (almost 17 percent) of arable land, and almost 12 percent of cattle.

The lease relations are being expanded.

Different forms of leases are utilized in agriculture of the Republic (i. e., collective, family, and private). According to the resolutions, lessees may rent the following means of production — arable and non-arable land, perrenial plants (trees, bushes), lakes and ponds, also other means of production and nonproduction denomination. The lease is paid according to the set prices established for each hectare or land, head of livestock, production related premises, and each unit of technical means of production. The price is established in cash and in ready produce. There are also mixed forms of payment.

Under conditions of wide development of lease system the collective farm becomes a sort of amalgamation consisting of primary self-financing collectives.

What are the peculiarities of the lease? The lessee

doesn't become the owner of production means, which were lent to him. However, the lessee is not indifferent how these production means are utilized, because his incomes directly depend on end results of labor effort. The lessee develops qualitatively new relations with the system offering the lease (e. g. enterprise, State, collective farm). The lease is established for the period previewed by the agreement. As a rule, this term constitutes 8—15 and more years. In other words the lessee becomes the owner of production means for the time of their amortization (i. e. premises, equipment, raw materials, etc.) The land is leased for 50 years as a rule. The lessee was given a free hand in terms of his production activity. The only thing he has to do is to pay the strictly fixed sums of money into budget. Therefore, the lessee becomes markedly interested in and responsible for the end results of his work, for the proper operating conditions of production means, because all this will define his incomes in the final count. The produce manufactured by lease collectives or the lease services is sold to trade organizations or consumers not according to market, but state or agreed prices.

The lease relations penetrate still deeper into industries. Development of lease relations in the *ODESHOLODMASH* Amalgamation in 1989 enabled this enterprise to increase by 8 percent the volume of its production, and level of its labor productivity. Consequently, the *ODESHOLODMASH* received additional profit of 1.5 million rubles and increased the volume of its produce by 10 percent. This corresponds to the world standards.

Deduced from the incomes of lease collectives are material expenditures, obligatory pays to the budget, credit interest and deductions for the lease itself. The rest constitutes the net income of self-financing. This net profit of lease collectives is being distributed in-

dependently: for modernization of production, for social development of the collective, for the risk fund and for salaries to all members of lease collective. The only possible norm here is expressed in the following condition: the growth rates of labor productivity should outscore the growth of salary fund.

Under conditions of lease relations, the enterprises are given wide rights in their remuneration policies. By way of example, limitations were removed from maximum amount of premiums for all categories of employees. Organization of bonus system is worked out and approved by the enterprise itself. Established at the expense of the net profit were additional labor, social and everyday benefits for separate categories of workers. The enterprises stimulate better utilization of personal savings of employees by setting up joint-stock companies on their basis.

The Kiev-based Repairs and Construction Center No. 3 gives a vivid example of successful utilization of lease system. Lease system was an emergency measure to stop fluidity of manpower at the enterprise (every fifth employee of the enterprise resigned in 1987). Qualified workers which were earning on the average 200 rubles per month began to seek employment at the coop societies which gave them monthly salaries reaching 600—700 rubles.

After transition to the lease system, the salaries of workers increased in two last months of 1988 by 2.6 times. The wages of engineers and technical staff over the same period registered 1.4-times growth. At the same time, managerial body of the enterprise was cut by 50 percent. It is only natural that intensity and productivity of labor soared to the unprecedented level. It took the employees only two months to develop diligent and thrifty attitude to the resources, raw materials, equipment and materials.

Experience of lease relations is also being adopted

in trade networks. For example, the lease collective was organized in the once profitless green grocery store of Dnipropetrovsk. Once it began to operate on lease contracts, it turned into a serious trade rival of the local market. The store nets 10-12 thousand rubles each month. Here is an interesting detail: the green grocery store found it profitable to buy in early summer water melons in Dagestan at 80 copecks a kilogram and sell them for one ruble. At the same time, the price for 1 kg of water melons at the market constituted 2 rubles 50 copecks. After the store began to sell the water melons from Dagestan, their price at the market fell to 1.50 copecks.

The lease system helps to liquidate profitless tendencies at the enterprises, to improve provision of population with foodstuffs, to increase production of consumer goods and to up-date the network of services.

However, further development of lease is still hampered by a number of serious reasons. Still unresolved is the question dealing with part and ownership of property formed due to net profit. Among those who hinder the lease are different departments and certain key-managers who are afraid to lose their former influence and power.

What sense do you put into the notions of "shares" and "stock activity" underway in the USSR at present?

Among the principal indicators of managerial independence of enterprises transferred to complete self-financing is the recently received right to release their own shares or valuable papers. Share-holders become co-owners of the capital of the joint-stock society. They also enjoy the right to receive part of incomes gained by such societies in form of dividents.

First shares in the USSR were released at the

Mykolaiv-Lviv Industrial Amalgamation for Manufacture of Building Materials. This happened in early 1988. This initiative was enthusiastically supported by many other enterprises. The abovementioned Amalgamation became the first lease and joint-stock socialist enterprise in the Soviet Union.

By selling the shares to members of the work collective, the enterprise takes upon itself the obligation to pay considerable interest. All this necessitates a stable financial situation, which is created under conditions of profitable work.

2.6 million rubles worth of shares were purchased in 1988 by employees of the Lviv-based Industrial Complex *KONVEYER*. Each employee could buy shares for the sum which was not exceeding his/her three-month pay. The enterprise guarantees 10-20 percent incomes from the initially invested sum.

By joining the share-holders, the employees develop another attitude to work, to economy of raw materials and resources. Besides, they become more demanding towards each other. Their social activity also grows. The employees define independently where to channel the means and in what proportion. So, the sums go for expansion of production, scientific and technological modernization, manufacture of new items of produce, machines, devices, or consumer goods.

Two types of valuable papers were established (i. e., shares of trade collectives and shares of enterprises). Shares of trade collectives are released following the decision of the meeting of work collective which was given wide rights in joint-stock activity. The work collective defines the total sum of shares, interest paid for them, utilization of means received from sales of shares and the maximum sum of shares per one employee. One half of shares is being constantly sold and bought at the enterprise. The other half of shares is given the employee together with

his/her salary. This latter category of shares may be broken into money only after resignation of the employee from his enterprise or from the bank of self-crediting.

As a rule, only workers of the enterprise become the owners of the shares. However, there are some exceptions. Certain enterprises sell the shares to the employees of partner enterprises bound with the former by agreements. Representatives of non-affiliated enterprises and organizations may also become the shareholders in certain cases.

Directive decisions limit the sum for which one employee could buy the shares. It constitutes 20 salaries but not more than 10 thousand rubles. There is yet another limitation: the collective has no right to release the shares which cost exceeds 30 percent from the sum of basic and turnover funds.

Dividents received from shares constitute additional monetary incomes of population. Certain equivalent in goods must correspond to these incomes. Therefore, if the enterprise violates the established proportion between growth of salaries and labor productivity, the pays of the dividents are suspended.

If the enterprise is being liquidated, it pays off all debts to its share holders. Pensioners or full-time employees who resign from the enterprise continue to enjoy the right for holding shares as well as for receiving the interest.

Shares of enterprises make up the second category of shares. They are distributed among enterprises and organizations, voluntary societies, banks and cooperatives. Decision about release of shares is made by administration of enterprise after obtaining complete consent of the Council of Work Collective. Release and purchase of shares was also given voluntary character.

Release of shares by enterprises is connected in

the first place with strengthening of cooperative ties, which reliability is being enhanced in the process of joint-stock activity. To this testifies, for example, the experience of cooperation between the Lviv Motor-Vehicle Amalgamation and its suppliers, which number constitutes 120. Release of shares and their distribution at other enterprises benefits expansion of business contacts and production relations between the partners.

The enterprises releasing the shares acquire the opportunity to receive the necessary means obtained from selling the shares. Therefore, the enterprises can carry out large-scale undertakings with long terms of turnover.

The total price of shares shouldn't exceed one half of basic and turnover funds. The sums received from sales of shares are channelled exclusively for expansion of production.

It is envisaged to release the shares for cooperatives. Such shares are spread among the members of coop societies and people working there on a part-time basis. The main idea behind release of such shares is in turning the "free means" into the source of additional financing, expansion, reconstruction and technical rearmament of production. These sums are also needed for transition to manufacture of new high-demand goods or for establishing high-demand services.

Nominal cost of shares and the order of paying the dividents is defined by general meeting of cooperative with participation of share-holders.

Do you produce automobiles and planes in Ukraine?

Yes, we do. Automobile and aviation industries were created in the Republic during the Soviet period. The largest automobile-building works are located in

Kremenchuk (Poltava Region). A 12-ton cargo for the KrAZ (the name of trucks being manufactured in Kremenchuk) is regarded as usual one. Besides the big cargo capacity, the Kremenchuk truck is a versatile machine. In the Soviet Union and abroad, the KrAZes are used at open ore and coal quarries, stone pits and oil fields. Due to high cross-country capacity, these trucks also operate in forest exploitation sites and with geological expeditions in the Far North, in deserts and tropics. On the basis of heavy-duty trucks we now produce over 60 different machines and mechanisms, among them cranes, excavators, mobile irrigation systems, etc.

Buses made in Lviv are popular in this country and abroad. They have been performing excellently both on long tourist trips and urban routes. The buses were displayed at the International Motor Show in Nice (France), International Fairs in Leipzig (the GDR) and Brussels (Belgium), and often participated in European rallies. The buses made in Lviv won many honorary diplomas and medals. In 1961, the first cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin was being taken to the Vostok ship's launching site in a Lviv bus.

The first Ukrainian motor car, "Zaporozhets", was manufactured at the Komunar Plant in Zaporizhya at the end of the 1950s. This minicar named "Zaporozhets" became popular in Hungary, Yugoslavia, Denmark, Holland, Finland and other countries. The car was decorated with the International Quality Mark for ten parameters (noise level, exhaust gas toxicity, steering, braking, etc). The said plant has recently started the manufacture of the "Tavriya" car whose performance is in no way inferior to the world best standards.

The production of low-powered cars for carrying passengers and loads commenced in Lutsk in 1966. This cross-country vehicle can convey 400 kg of cargo

or 5-6 passengers. It can easily negotiate 40 ° slopes. The LuAZ-969M is exported now to Turkey and Columbia.

Functioning in Ukraine today are more than four dozens of automobile-building enterprises.

The planes developed by the design bureau named after Academician Oleg Antonov have flown all over the world. The Kiev aviation amalgamation manufactures the AN-24 passenger liner as well as the AN-72 and-32 transport planes. The all-purpose light aircraft AN-2 had for several decades been operating in the national economy. It has broken all service records. Now it has been replaced by plane AN-3 which is used in agriculture.

The AN-22 "Antei" was for a long time the world's biggest plane. The AN-72 was the first jet plane created by the Kiev design bureau. The plane is able of taking off from short runways and land on unpaved and snow-covered strips. The AN-28 is now operating on air routes. Its speed is 300 km per hour. The plane is used for extinguishing forest fires, in geological survey, for rendering the medical aid to patients in hard-to-reach mountains. Now, the planes designed in Kiev function at three-quarters of the Soviet air routes.

Transport plane AN-124 "Ruslan" was the hit at the Aviation and space show in May, 1985, in Le Bourget near Paris. At that time this aircraft was the world's biggest.

Its flight weight is 405 tons; it can carry 150 tons of cargo. "Ruslan" holds the world record for cargo lifting capacity. It lifted cargo weighing 171 tons 219 kilograms to a height of 10,750 meters. The maximum flying range is 16,500 kilometers, and the flight weight — 10—12 km.

"Ruslan" is capable of carrying sea containers weighing up to 20 tons, long steel frames of bridges,

large parts of drilling installation, tractors and scrapers, buses and river ships.

Ukrainian aircraft builders have recently created the biggest plane of the AN family, AN-225 whom they called "Mriya" (dream). The flight weight of the world's biggest super transport aircraft is 600 tons. It can lift cargo weighing 250 tons. "Mriya" is capable of carrying the Soviet shuttle spaceship "Buran", the parts of rocket "Energiya", drilling rigs, and other bulky cargos. The cargo compartment, 43 meter long, can accomodate 80 automobiles.

The aircraft can carry 200 tons of cargo to the distance of 4500 km at a speed of 850 km/h. It is provided with six engines and has no analogues in the world. "Mriya" was designed and manufactured within the space of 3 years.

In recent years, much attention has been paid to subsidiary individual holdings. What is the reason for such stimulation of private farming?

Subsidiary individual holdings are an integral part of socialist agriculture since the land is the common property of the Soviet people. The socialist nature of this type of farming in our country is shaped by many factors. First, this type of farming is performed by collective farmers and workers of state enterprises who do this in their free time. Secondly, it is closely connected with the socialist economy helping meet the people's requirements in foodstuffs.

Such holdings produce a certain share in the output of meat, milk and other agricultural products. Special resolution passed by the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government specifies material and moral conditions that would make people more interested in subsiding farming. Measures are taken to provide farmers with stock and fodder, while the collective

and state farms have been given the right to render such assistance free.

In 1988, some 9 mln rural families had individual holdings with a total area of 2.5 mln hectares.

The produce of subsidiary farming is used to satisfy the farmers' requirements in foodstuffs, sold at markets, in towns and to state purchasing organizations, or cooperatives.

In May, 1987, the Law on Individual Labor Activity came into effect in this country. According to this Law, the citizens are given the right to run small cafes and restaurants, make clothes, carpets, souvenirs, repair apartments and cars, household appliances, teach foreign languages, play musical instruments, etc.

It is underscored that individual labor activity shall be carried out personally by people. Hired labor, exploitation of man by man are strictly prohibited.

Has the restructuring changed the consumer level in Ukraine?

It has changed it to some extent. Let's turn to the statistics. Facts testify that commodity circulation is increasing in the Republic at a greater rate than in no other previous period. Compared to 1985, the sales of consumer goods were considerably increased. By way of example, per capita consumption of meat products was increasing in three years of the current five-year plan (1986—1988) by 7 percent as compared with average annual consumption in the preceding five year plan (1980—1985). Besides, the difference in consumption of dairy products constitutes 8 percent. Production of consumer goods increased in 1988 by 10 percent if compared with 1985. Despite all these outwardly pleasing figures the industries and agriculture of the Republic are far from realization of the State complex

program for furthering production of consumer goods and modernization of services. This program is previewed for 1986—2000. In 1988, every eighth enterprise failed to cope with their production tasks dealing with manufacture of consumer goods. We are still falling behind the plan in production of TV sets, radios, cassette players, laundry detergents, etc.

Despite the increase in volume of sales, the problem of adequate provision of population with basic foodstuffs is still acute. This concerns meat in the first place. The food industry chronically fails to satisfy the population's demand in confectionary. Almost all types of confectionary are in short supply in the Republic.

Not sufficient are the volumes and assortment of fruits and vegetables being received by trade networks. As a result, the prices at the farmers' markets exceed the state retail prices by 2.6 times on the average. Separate types of produce are even 5—6 times more expensive.

Larger number of fashionable goods corresponding to contemporary demands begin to appear on sale at the State shops. At the same time, there exists a sharp shortage of footwear, sewn and knitted goods enjoying high demand with the customers. A lot of difficulties are experienced by those who want to purchase furniture, household technical appliances and goods for children. Despite the ever growing volume of sales, the enterprises are still unable to satisfy the demand in many types of timber and building materials.

Despite the fact that the level of consumption went up, there are still lots of problems. These problems are aggravated by excess of money over real goods. According to the official estimates, solution of food program falls way behind the promised schedule.

Can restructuring cause unemployment?

Introduction of new technologies, reduction of administrative and managerial staff triggered in recent years the release of thousands of workers. Besides, according to the Law on State Enterpise/Amalgamation it is allowed to liquidate the profitless or bankrupt enterprises. However, all these undertakings haven't given birth to such a social phenomenon as unemployment.

Public ownership of production means and socialist production relations create all grounds not simply for complete but for most effective employment. All this is achieved not automatically but necessitates consistent realization of economic measures along these lines. In 1988, the State resolution was endorsed in the USSR which stipulated perfecting the system of employment and strengthening the social guarantees for workers.

This legislation also envisages organization of a single system of running the labor resources within the framework of the new managerial system. Created for exactly this purpose was the All-Union system for employment, retraining and professional orientation of the population. It embraces all districts, cities, regions, provinces and republics. Operating already throughout the USSR are the new centers for employment and retraining which also busy themselves with distribution and redistribution of labor resources. Apart from that, the enterprises utilize released workers and office employees for more effective manufacture of consumer goods, expansion of services for members of the given collective and development of supplementary farms in rural areas.

Under conditions of cooperative drive, which gain momentum in the USSR, part of released workforce find the best use of their professional abilities in

cooperatives. The number of workers employed in them is quite moderate and constitutes 250 thousand. But in the near future, cooperatives are expected to offer much wider employment opportunities.

There are quite a few vivid examples in the Republic when the work collectives take on lease terms certain profitless enterprises. They carry out reorganization at such an industrial enterprise and before long convert it into economically thriving, plant, factory, etc.

The released workforce is given opportunity to receive employment in other regions of the Republic or the country. This is being carried out according to the inter-branch transfer, organized enrollment, public recruitment or agricultural migration. Such and similar procedures envisage certain guarantees and compensations to which the released workers are obligatorily entitled. These benefits include creation of proper living and social and everyday conditions, also assistance with employment of able-bodied members of their families.

Fortified were the guarantees dealing with the most important constitutional right — namely, the right to labor. This right is the corner stone of the strong social policy declared by the CPSU 27th Congress.

The Soviet press dedicated quite a lot of articles to reduction of managerial bodies. Will you please dwell in this connection on distribution of population engaged in the national economy of Ukraine?

In the recent years, the process of liquidation of unnesessary managerial functions and corresponding structural simplification of the managerial apparatus have become increasingly active in the USSR and Ukraine in particular. Liquidated in Ulraine were 55 industrial amalgamations of Republican affiliation.

The number of ministries and departments was reduced from 55 to 47. Their central apparatus will decrease by 50 percent. On the whole, the managerial bodies in the Republic were reduced almost by 93 thousand employees, which constitutes more than 21 percent. The problem of their employment and rational utilization have been successfully resolved.

In connection with transition to the intensive methods of management and new conditions of payment more than 200 thousand workers were released from the state enterprises and organizations affiliated to production branches. Every fifth worker went on pension, the rest were employed at other enterprises and organizations. Part of them decided to take up individual or cooperative activity.

At present upwards of 40 percent of Republic's workforce is employed either in construction or in industries.

It's noteworthy that the number of the abovementioned workers was increasing in the 1980s. In connection with intensification and mechanization of production and migration of rural dwellers to the cities, the number of those employed in agriculture, including forestry and private farming on supplementary plots of land, is constantly decreasing. At present, it constitutes 20 percent. At the same time, the percentage of those working in cultural domain, health care, social security and science is on the upward curve.

There are some 24 million 500 thousand workers, office employees and peasants in Ukraine at present. Almost 30 percent of them are the young people under 30. 7 percent ot Ukraine's workforce are people of the pension age (working retirees). Over the two last years, the bulk of surplus workforce has been seeking employment in communal services.

Every fourth employed in the national economy has higher or secondary special education. At the same

time, the corrupt practice of incorrect utilization of diplomaed specialists is still practiced in certain branches. By way of example, more than 800 thousand specialists with higher education have the jobs which are much below their professional level.

Are the average monthly earnings the same in Ukraine as elsewhere in the Soviet Union?

In 1988, the average monthly earnings of factory and office workers in the Soviet Union were 207 rubles while in Ukraine they were 196 rubles. Such a difference was caused by certain circumstances. Additional wages and salaries are paid to the people working in the north and east of Russia with long severe winters, Central Asia with extremely high temperatures, and in the regions of the Far East. This is due to the fact that some goods and foodstuffs being delivered to these regions cost more to cover transportation expenses.

As against 1980, the average monthly earnings of factory and office workers in the Republic have increased almost 1.5 times.

The wages of collective farmers in 1988 amounted to 184 rubles compared to 156 rubles in 1987. Of course, average wages and salaries in urban areas are higher than in rural ones. However, in rural areas the amount of investments in savings-banks exceeds that in towns by 146 rubles per capita. The point is that many peasants do not buy a lot of foodstuffs getting them from individual holdings. Besides, they sell the surplus of agricultural produce and get additional profit which amounts to 23 percent of the family income.

The raise in pay of doctors, teachers, scientists, started in 1988, continued in 1989. Over the period of last four years, monetary income of population in Ukraine grew by 17 percent.

The growth of earnings in industry, civil engineering and other branches outstripped the rates of labour efficiency increase thus giving rise to inflation processes.

How is the work of men and women paid?

Men and women in this country get the equal pay for the same amount of the work done. Such principle has been existing since the first days of the Soviet period. All people living in the Soviet Union, regardless of sex, have the constitutional right to receive a guaranteed job with equal pay according to the amount and quantity of the work done. A major role here belongs not to the sex of a person but to the type of work she or he does.

In Ukraine women account for 52 percent of the total number of factory and office workers. The number of women in 156 professions surpasses 50 percent. In such fields as health protection and library work men constitute just a little more than 10 percent. Less men are engaged in education, trade and public catering.

The Soviet laws forbid women to work in metallurgical shops or underground, in some branches of chemistry and machine building. Men comprise more than 55 percent of all those employed in industry. The number of men and women in agriculture is roughly the same.

The system of credits is widely used in the West, and we find it convenient. Do you have something like this in the USSR?

The system of crediting exists in Ukraine as well as in the USSR. For several decades already, first in Ukraine and later on the whole of the USSR's territory, credits have been used for buying costly things

for construction of private houses. At present credit plays an important role in the budget of Soviet families.

Take for example coop construction. In such cases the State offers credits for 70 percent of total expenditures. The entrance fee for those who join cooperatives constitutes 30 percent from the total cost of the future flat. The credit is paid off in the course of 25 years. The interest is only 0.5 percent a year.

In rural areas, the housing cooperatives construct the mansion-type cottages with all necessary outbuildings. If in the former years, the floor space of a three-room apartment couldn't exceed 66 sq.m, the space limit today is 81 sq. m. The time of pay-off constitutes 20 years after the end of construction.

Consumer credits are penetrating the sphere of private farming of workers, peasants and office employees. Since recently, the credit for such livestock as cows and calves constitutes correspondingly 500 and 250 rubles with pay-off due to take place in 5 years. It's noteworthy that in such cases one half of the credit can be paid not by a buyer but by the enterprises where this individual works. These sums are paid from the funds of economic remuneration.

The members of gardening societies are offered credits for construction of cottages and for trimming their plots and gardens.

However, the system of credits acquired even greater popularity in the cases when the goods of the long-term usage are purchased. At present almost all Ukrainian stores selling everyday household appliances, radio-electronic goods, furniture, garements and footwear have special departments where postponed payment is arranged. Among goods sold in credit are TV sets, furniture, refrigerators, etc.

Not so long ago, the customers had to wait years until they could buy a private car. The situation was

the same practically for all Soviet made modifications. At present, the customers in Ukraine may use credit system while purchasing such makes of cars as "MOSKVICH—2140" and "MOSKVICH-2140-LUX". The first payment must constitute not less than 50 percent of the total cost of the car. 4-year-long credit is granted for the rest of the sum.

The bank of savings and crediting has been operating since recently in Ukraine. Its chapters (former saving banks) not simply keep the savings but also lend different sums to citizens for small interest payment. Any citizen may take money in the bank under condition that he will be able to return the sum within two years. In order to prove his ability to pay, the bank demands nothing more than a document from place of this individual's work. If a young family of non-working people wants to borrow money (say, students), their parents, or the enterprise which sent the young people to study or the enterprise which will take young specialists after their graduation from the higher educational establishment, act as warrantor.

The minimum sum constitutes 500, the maximum one shouldn't exceed 20,000 rubles.

Are all young people provided with jobs in your country?

The high school leavers wishing to find jobs are usually invited by industrial works and offices. Besides, there function special job placement bureaus and commissions at local state bodies which study the labor resources distribution. Sociologists say that a person in this country can easily find a job within the space of 20 days or so thanks to a great number of vacancies. Graduates of vocational and technical schools, institutes and universities are provided with jobs according to their speciality.

Most young people in Ukraine work in industry, that is, 40 percent of all working people under 30. The second place in terms of employment belongs to civil engineering, transport and communications. Constantly growing is the number of young people engaged in computer-aided services, public catering, trade, culture and arts. Unfortunately, the number of boys and girls working in agriculture keeps decreasing.

According to the Soviet laws, employment of persons under 16 is strictly forbidden. Still there are the cases when upon the agreement of a teenager and a local committee of trade union a boy or a girl can be allowed to work at 15. The law forbids persons under 18 to have the jobs with hard labor conditions.

Before employment, teenagers shall go through a thorough medical checkup. Factory and office workers under 18 and working a shorter workweek get the same pay as those working full hours. These young workers have a month-long paid leave every year. Young factory and office workers who combine work with study have such privileges as additional paid leaves of absence, a shorter workweek, and the like.

Young specialists who have been sent to work in rural areas are granted the credits of up to 1000 rubles to be paid in the five-year period. Those young specialists working in industry get even greater credits, that is, 1500 rubles for the period of 8 years. After the birth of the second child, the debt is reduced by 200 rubles, and after the third child is born — again by 300 rubles.

How are relations between employees and administration regulated in your country?

They are regulated by means of collective agreements concluded between trade unions and administration. The aim of those agreements is to fix the main rules of relations in the production activities of workers and employees. The agreements contain such pro-

visions as renumeration and labor protection, duration of work and leizure, etc. The signing of agreements is preceded by discussions of their drafts at general meetings of employees.

Fulfillment of collective agreements usually does not entail contradictions between the two sides. Both administration and employees are equally interested that their office or industrial enterprise works more efficiently. In the event of conflict, it is settled by leading economic and trade-union bodies. Administration and trade-union committee periodically report to employees on observance of the agreement provisions. Provided the provisions are not observed, the meeting of employees can take a decision on a penalty to be placed on guilty persons.

Regulation of relations between employees and administration does not involve collective agreements only. Here we should also mention that there exist development plans of work collectives being drawn up for each of them. The plans stipulate the obligations for administration to improve working and living conditions, rest and recreation for the working people. General meetings of workers and employees, production conferences, Party, Komsomol, trade union, other political and public organizations also take an active part in regulation of these relations. These organizations have the right to advance the proposals to higher bodies of management on taking administrative measures against the managers who disregard these obligations, up to their dismissal from office.

What is self-administration at industrial enterprises and offices? What is the role of recently established councils of work collectives?

In fact, self-administration is not a new phenomenon in our country. In early years of the Soviet power, V. I. Lenin set the task of involving the working

people into various forms of self-government seeing in it the inexhaustable source of creative initiative awakened by the Revolution.

In the period of stagnation when command and administration methods of management dominated this principle was conveniently swept under the rug.

Perestroika of economic mechanism, assertion of democracy and glasnost have turned the principle of self-administration into reality. This is proved, for instance, by creation of the councils of work collectives and election of managers from several candidates.

According to the results of vote conducted in early 1987 in Ukraine, the work collectives elected some 2 thousand directors and almost 70 thousand managers of the so-called middle link.

Directors and managers are elected by the general staff meeting or at the conference of representatives of work collective by open or secret vote.

The type of vote is decided by the meeting. The managers are elected for the term of 5 years. Under current conditions, the key-manager bears full responsibility for the results of work not only before the State, and the body to which he is subordinated, but also before the work collective. He is entitled to report to the latter about his managerial activity.

The general meeting is a major form through which to exercise the authority of the work collective. This meeting elects the manager and the council of work collective. The participants of the meeting study and approve the collective agreement, endorse the regulations dealing with work routine and solve the most important tasks related to economic life of their enterprise.

In the period between the general meetings, the council of work collectives excercises the authority of work collective. The council is elected during the general meeting for the term of 2—3 years. Elected to

the councils are workers, specialists, engineers, and representatives of public organizations. Representatives of administration shouldn't exceed one-fourth from the total number of participants. The regular meeting renews the composition of the council to not less than one-fourth of its composition.

The principal task of the council's endeavors is in attaining the highest possible end results in economic and social advancement of collectives. There are 30 thousand councils of work collectives throughout Ukraine and they are vested with wide rights. They control all crucial production, managerial, social and cadre issues, also those dealing with supplies and sales.

The councils make decisions as for utilization of equipment and raw materials, modernization of production and development of the social sphere (i. e., housing, construction of day-care centers, cultural and educational establishments). The work collectives also busy themselves with perfection of managerial and organizational structure of their enterprise, ensure the strict dependence of salary on labor contribution of each worker and just distribution of material benefits. In other words, the council of work collectives solves all questions dealing with economic and social development if all these issues are not within the competence of the general meeting.

Decisions of the councils of work collective adopted within the bounds of their responsibilities, also resolutions being in strict conformity with the Soviet Legislation must be carried out by the administration no matter what.

Here are some examples illustrating endeavors of these public formations which consolidation is still underway.

While studying, for example, the production plan for 1989 the members of the council of work collective

at the ELEKTRONMASH Industrial Amalgamation of Odessa came to the conclusion that the ministry gave unreasonable production quotas to their enterprise. Following the demand of the council, the officials of the corresponding ministry visited the enterprise. As a result, the document dealing with production plans was revised and made reasonable.

The council of the Manufacturing Complex "Kiev" takes active part in utilization of earned means by distributing them according to the work conditions. This just approach promoted the greater output of manufactured goods. The council of this enterprise endorsed the decision about construction of the rest home on the Black Sea coast, also reconstruction of pioneer camp, expanding the grounds and premises at the plant-owned recreation base, repairs at the club, cafeteria and other objects of social and cultural denomination. The council also resolved to increase the fund of housing construction.

The councils of work collective take upon themselves the tasks dealing with better management and organization of production, they also excercise control over decisions of general meetings. The councils hear reports of administration about realization of plans and obligations stipulated by collective agreements. Under these conditions , administration turns into the executive body of the work collective and completely accountable to the latter.

However, further formation and strengthening of work collectives stumbles quite often against stubborn conservatism, passiveness, indifference, fear of administration to discard the worn-out methods and forms of work. It also happens that "recommended" individuals are elected to the councils of work collectives. Besides, the councils are restricted in their endeavors by some artificial provisos, recommendations and instructions aimed in fact at curbing the

independence of the councils. This unhealthy intereference is the direct result of the counteraction organized by the old bureaucratic system which is unwilling to give up its old positions and privileges.

Cardinal changes also take place in relations between the enterprise and the ministry to which the former is unswerable. According to the Law on the State Enterprise/Amalgamation all bodies of State power and economic management must give green light to further development of economic independence, initiative, socialist industriousness, and self-administration of work collectives. The ministries must strictly observe rights of the collectives without interfering in their economic activity, and should inform the work collectives about their work.

If the ministry issues an order or any other legal document contradicting the aforementioned Law, the enterprise has the right to seek justice in the arbitrage by placing in a report demanding to render this act invalid and pay damages caused to the enterprise by the unjustified order of the corresponding ministry from the latter's funds.

Being genuinely democratic bodies, the councils of work collectives continue to acquire experience, authority and force.

Can people be fired without their consent?

The right of Soviet citizens to work is guaranteed by the Constitution and special laws. Any restriction of rights or granting of privileges during employment on grounds of sex, race, nationality or attitude to religion is prohibited. Administration cannot fire any person without the consent of trade union. The Soviet workers are not fired even if their work is replaced by new technology. In such cases they are offered another job or transferred to another enterprise upon

their consent, or they are requalified at state cost.

Labor laws envisage dismissal of workers who do not turn up at their job without any valid reason. Such cases are considered by trade unions.

Trade unions, state bodies, labor inspectors supervise the observance of labor laws.

What incomes, besides earnings, do your people have?

In our country, earnings are the main but not the only source for satisfying material and cultural needs of the people. A person's earnings make up the bulk of his income. Besides, the most ideal distribution according to labor cannot ensure absolute equality of consumption for all families. That is why, in addition to earnings, the Soviet citizens receive material benefits from social consumption funds.

Social consumption funds relatively level family incomes, they help create equal conditions for all citizens, to get free education, health protection, etc. However, difference in the level of incomes is still rather big.

Soviet trade unions demand to take due measures in order to more strictly observe the principle of social justice, to increase the share of social consumption funds being used for maintenance of retired and disabled persons, for helping the families with low income.

Social consumption funds are made up exclusively of state budget allocations (70 %), contributions from enterprises, public and cooperative organizations. The funds involve stipends for students, allowances for families with many children, allocations for rest, physical culture and sports. Almost 50 percent go for

The Illychevsk Port. Export of agricultural produce

financing education, medical services, treatment at resorts, sanatoriums.

The share of social consumption funds in the family budget of workers and employees makes up 25 percent, in that of peasants — 20 percent. For instance, the state pays 8-16 rubles for one day of a person's treatment in hospital while that person pays nothing for it, 296 rubles a year for a school student's studies, over 1400 rubles annually for a student's studies at college. All these expenses are covered by the state. In 1988, social consumption funds, which are doubled each decade, grew in Ukraine by 3.5 percent. Today they constitute 562 roubles per one person.

Social consumption funds are economic foundation of such civil rights fixed by the Soviet Constitution as the right to rest, health protection, maintenance in old age, etc.

How many private cars are there in Ukraine?

Ten times less than in the USA, seven times less than in France. In 1987, only 15 families out of 100 had cars. In 1970, the number of such families was 2 out of 100. People in rural areas have more cars than those in urban ones.

Local authorities arrange the parking sites for private cars. In many Ukrainian cities quite a few underground garages have been built but still there are more open parking spaces.

Do you practice obligatory deductions similar to insurance payments in Western countries?

No, we do not. We practice two types of insurance in this country. The first is state insurance when a person voluntarily makes a monthly payment for insuring his life or property. The second is social insu-

rance which is covered by state funds and involves the population as a whole. The social insurance budget involves contributions made by enterprises, offices, state allocations without any deductions from wages and salaries.

Since 1933, social insurance funds are at the disposal of trade unions. Social insurance means the material assistance in the event of temporary disability, pen-

Harvesting time

sions, concern for safe working conditions, sanatorium-resort treatment, tourism, and the like. For example, in case of sickness, factory worker, farmer or office employee receives material assistance ranging from 50 to 100 percent of his earnings depending on his length of service. Material assistance equal to 100 percent is received by those whose length of service is 8 years and more.

Money from social insurance budget is used to cover 70 percent or the full cost of vouchers to resorts, children's rest at young pioneer camps and suburban cottages (where most children attending kindergartens spend their summers).

Do you have a housing problem in Ukraine?

Yes, we have, and this is a very acute problem. Since the victory of the Great October Revolution almost two decades were spent for repelling the enemy assaults and for postwar reconstruction. WWII left homeless some 10 mln people. Such are some reasons for this problem.

Some 950 apartments are built in Ukraine every day. Within three days we build as much housing as is required for a town with population of 9000 people.

The housing problem was aggravated by evacuation of people living within the 30-km zone around the Chernobyl APS after the 4th reactor failure. All these people were provided with apartments and houses. It is also quite possible that the housing construction plans will be negatively affected by the terrible earthquake in Armenia which badly damaged many towns and villages. Ukraine rendered a big assistance to Armenians, in particular, by sending there

a great number of builders, construction materials, etc.

In 1981—1988, 1.2 mln flats were built in the Republic. Rates of housing construction here surpass the annual population growth. More apartments are built in Ukraine each year, than, for instance, in Great Britain and Italy whose population is bigger than in our Republic.

Success in housing construction made it possible to start distributing the new flats according to the principle: a separate apartment for a family. It is planned to provide each family with separate flat or house by the year 2000. Today, more than 80 percent of the families live in separate apartments. It is also envisaged to build 5.4 mln flats in 1985—2000.

The bulk of housing (70 %) is built in the Soviet Union at the state expense. Cooperative and individual housing construction constitute 25 percent. The state gives credit loans to those building their own apartments at low long-term interest rates, Besides, almost 4 percent of the housing is built by collective farms at their own expense and State bank credits.

The USSR Constitution fixes the right of citizens to housing. Such right is ensured not only by a broad-scale housing construction but also the just distribution of apartments among the working people. Citizens who need better living conditions and who permanently live in a given populated area are usually provided by a separate flat per family. Registration of such persons is carried out at their place of residence or at the enterprises or offices where they work.

The waiting list for apartments is made up according to the existing laws. Priority is given to invalids, war veterans, families with many children, etc. The apartments are distributed by local bodies of go-

vernment or administration with participation of special housing commissions under trade-union committees.

The state gives apartments at the disposal of tenants without any time limit. Today, the tenants have the right to buy the state apartments they live in, to leave them as a legacy or to sell them. Having bought the flat, the tenant pays only for utilities.

Does rent increase in your country?

Rent in the Soviet Union has remained unchanged since 1928, regardless of the fact that the cost price of each square meter of living space permanently increases due to improvement in quality of apartment houses. On the average, rent does not exceed 3 percent of the family budget.

The money tenants pay for rent and utilities does not even cover one-third of the state's expenses for maintenance and repair of houses.

Tenants pay just 13.2 copecks for one square meter of living space per month, that is, a bit more than 1.5 ruble per year while the corresponding state's subsidies are 4 rubles.

Certain categories of citizens (for instance, the families of WWII veterans) pay 50 per cent of rent. Legislation also stipulates lower rent for the people engaged in public health care, education and some people living in the countryside. Collective and state farmers can buy new houses built by state or farms at 10—20 percent of their cost. The remainder of the sum is paid out within 20 years with the enterprises paying half of the debt.

The first payment by members of housing coops constitute 40 percent of the apartment cost, the remaining 60 percent being covered by the state. Besides,

the state supplies necessary building materials and equipment. In addition to paying off the debt, the tenants of the coop pay for utilities.

What is the state of affairs in the Republic's health care system?

By the end of 1987, there were 428 physicians per 100 thousand of population in Ukraine. This index is higher than in any Western country. In Italy, for example, there are only 289 physicians per 100 thousand of population.

Year in and year out, the network of health-care system is getting expanded. Meant here are polyclinics, hospitals, maternity homes and special research institutions. In late 1987, Ukraine had 133 hospital beds per 10 thousand of Republic's population. In the United States, the number of hospital beds per the same number of population constitutes 58, in France — 102, in Italy — 83.

For quite a long period, the USSR's health service has been practicing mass disease-preventing check-ups of population. It was done for defining and timely diagnosis of the disease, also for preventing the outbursts and spread of epidemics. Some 130 million general medical check-ups are conducted in Ukraine annually. Protection of maternity and childhood is given number-one priority in the health system of the USSR. 40 percent of state expenditures are allotted for development of this branch. However, the need of population in medical help is not completely satisfied. The quality of medical service also causes quite a few complaints on the part of Republic's population. The level of medical service in rural areas is far from adequate. Introduction of general dispensa-

Special car for first aid

ry system is being carried out slower than necessary. Material and technical base of health institutions, also provision of population with drugs necessitate qualitative improvement.

For quite a few years the health service of the country was receiving only those means which were left after satisfying other needs. The annual increase of sums was barely sufficient to cover expenditures connected with the natural growth of population. This was a serious hindrance on the way of creating the up-dated material and technical base of health service and further development of medical science.

The program of changes in the health service was embodied first of all in *TNE PRINCIPAL GUIDELINES OF THE USSR'S HEALTH SERVICE IN THE 27TH FIVE YEAR PLAN AND FOR THE PERIOD UNTIL THE YEAR 2000.* This government document proclaimed the principle according to which a certain part of the national income would be channelled to the system of health protection. This part will be distributed with account of number of population, local peculiarities and situation in health service of concrete regions of the country.

Being improved in the USSR at present are the sanitary service, diagnostic base and first-aid service, the network of medical and sanitary service at the industrial enterprises of the country.

Only fifth part of the country's plants, factories and manufacturing complexes has such health-care establishments on their premises. Being reorganized in Ukraine are the research-and-scientific institutions for cardiology and cardio-vascular surgery. The health system of the Republic is completing organization of paramedical and obstetric stations in the villages which population exceeds 500.

Organization of struggle with such contagious diseases is an important constituent part of general

disease-preventing work in the country. As a result of it, the Republic practically liquidated such highly dangerous diseases as typhoid, malaria, cholera, poliomyelitis, etc. Praiseworthy results were scored in medical science specializing in the problems of surgery, gerontology, early diagnosis of malignant tumors and many other important issues in the trend.

Are there many resorts in Ukraine?

Each region of the Republic boasts numerous sanatoriums, holiday and rest homes. The southern part of the Crimea, washed by the warm Black Sea, is a resort enjoying the world-wide popularity. At the end of 1920, V. I. Lenin signed the decree on Utilizing the Crimea for Treatment of Working People. The Decree specified that the palaces, cottages and estates which had earlier belonged to the tsar's family, princes, landlords and capitalists were given to workers and peasants. In 1925, the world's first sanatorium for peasants was opened in Livadiya (near Yalta) in the former Tsar's palace.

The number of sanatoriums and rest homes increases in Ukraine every year, though there is still a great need in them. New resorts are created on the coasts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, Transcarpathia, on the banks of lakes and rivers. Disease-prevention centers are plenty in towns and villages. Workers, peasants and office employees receive treatment and rest here in weekends usually free of charge.

In 1988, over 13 mln people in Ukraine improved their health at sanatoriums and rest homes. Upwards of 5 mln children rested in children resorts.

The average cost of a 24-day stay in a sanatorium is 121 roubles. But only one-fifth of the places are issued at full cost, one-fifth of them are free, and the rest are

30 percent of the total cost. The places for families are sold at a discount. For instance, a 12-day holiday for a family of four costs 40-50 roubles. The place for workers and employees at a plant rest home is 7 roubles for 12 days.

The majority of resorts in Ukraine belong to trade unions, the rest to the Ministry of Public Health, industrial enterprises and agricultural coops.

Education, science, culture, sports

EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE, SPORTS

Do the people in Ukraine have free access to education?

A really democratic system of education has been created in Ukraine. Its chief principles are equal opportunities for all citizens to get free of charge education, absence of any restrictions or privileges, state and social nature of educational establishments, granting of stipends and other material assistance to pupils and students, free choice of the instruction language (native or other languages of the Soviet nations), etc. In Ukraine, there are more than 23 thousand high and vocational schools, 146 colleges and universities where more than one-third of Ukraine's population study.

One of the major social problems has been solved in this country, that is, transition to a compulsory secondary education. More than 7 mln pupils attend school in Ukraine. Text books are free.

The secondary and vocational school reform is realized in Ukraine as elsewhere in the country.

Vocational and technical schools train 800,000 young people in 550 trades.

There are almost 180 college students per 10,000 people in the Republic. This is more than in Canada, Italy, France. Within the period of 1951—1988, Ukrainian universities and colleges turned out almost 4 mln specialists. Over 8 mln people annually raise their skills at industrial works, collective farms at the state's expense.

What is the situation in Republic's education?

The facts give a clear picture. Urwards of 20 million of Ukraine's population are engaged in different types of studies ranging from primary school to the institutions of higher learning. That makes more than one third of Republic's population. This number of students and pupils as well as constantly growing

In a collective farm's sanatorium

demands in development of public education necessitate the adequate level of school in particular and education in general. Only 6 percent of the State budget are spent now in Ukraine for this purpose. This index is much lower than in many developed countries of the world. The level of education in secondary, professional and special establishments, universities and institutes doesn't correspond yet to the demands of public life. In order to overcome this unpleasant situation, the Soviet government resorted to the school reform in 1984. But the progress of the school reform was painfully slow. Only after 1987, some positive changes became visible in schooling process. The major principle of this reform is transition to the single system of uninterrupted education. This system should react correspondingly to the changes in material and spiritual life of society, also to dynamics and mobility of contemporary knowledge. The secondary school constitutes an important link in the system of uninterrupted studies. It strives to provide each student with the necessary level of scientific knowledge. Besides, it acquaints the youngsters with treasure of national and world culture, tempers their morals and physique. By way of example, introduced throughout the Republic was the tuition course *THE BASICS OF INFORMATICS AND COMPUTER TECHNIQUE* which is studied by greater number of students with every next year. The number of children entering secondary schools at the age of 6 is constantly growing.

The system of vocational and technical training prepares progressive reserve of the working class and peasantry. These young specialists, oriented on advanced economic and technical methods in their professional careers, constitute the bulk of young professionals for all branches of the national economy.

In 1960—1988, more than 16 million citizens graduated from secondary schools; 1.5 million finished vocational-training colleges (schools). However, this army of trained specialists is still unable to satisfy the needs of the national economy in qualified professionals. The same applies to the graduates of Ukraine's higher educational establishments. The ultimate aim of the higher rung of public education is to create the adequate scientific potential capable of accomplishing revolutionary changes in economy, of attaining the world level in science, of enriching culture and spiritual life of society in general. This aim is far from ultimate completion. In 1988, for example, the total number of graduates from the institutions of higher learning was less than in 1986. However, the level of their training grew considerably. This is the eloquent indication of the schooling reform.

The society is constantly concerned with training and social security of pedagogical cadres. There are almost 600 thousand teachers working in Ukraine's secondary schools. Proportion between this figure and the total number of pupils is one of the highest in the world. It is the major index defining the situation with cadres in education. It's quite alarming, however, that the salaries of teachers in the USSR are much lower than in the developed countries of the world. The earnings of teachers are below the average Soviet salary. However, the State constantly increases the wages of pedagogues and creates necessary material and everyday conditions for their work.

Our own history testifies that for quite a long time, Soviet society hadn't been paying due attention to educational establishments of all levels. Only in recent years, the situation began to normalize.

Special attention is being paid to development of work activity of pupils so that the work of a youngster could be based on democratic and on collective prin-

ciples. Therefore, it must be creatively independent.

A special program for development of public education was worked out, necessary sums and material means were assigned.

Humanization and democratization are the principal guidelines, defining all endeavors in the domain of public education. It must free itself from unnecessary pressure of bureaucrats and all administrative echelons of educational system.

Democratic managerial approach in public education necessitates the changes as well as redistribution of functions and roles in the system: secondary school /vocational college/higher educational establishments.

As for vocational training, part of training colleges is being turned into professionally oriented secondary schools. The rest of the colleges will become the higher professional schools training workers of superior qualification, operators for automatic systems, computer technologies and other production sections which utilize that latest achievements in science and technology.

It is also planned to change the huge number of the so-called technical shools which programs took shape in the times when country experienced sharp shortage of engineers. In fact, the schools have been "mass manufacturing" the secondrate engineers.

Cardinal changes are previewed for higher training. 146 higher educational establishments operate in Ukraine at present. Their total student body exceeds 850 thousand.

The following mainline changes will be carried out in training of specialists by the institutions of higher learning: revision of disciplines, improvement of fundamental basis not at the expense of science-related disciplines but on the basis of new concepts in educations, greater emphasis on self-education,

democratization of tuition process (this includes the students' self-administration), correspondence of knowledge to public demand, fuller utilization of scientific achievements scored by teachers' body in tuition process.

Institutions of higher learning received wider rights in defining the sense, forms and methods of tuition process. This offers an opportunity to transfer the talented students to individual tuition, also stimulate the effort of excellent students with much higher scholarships, to provide them with better jobs after graduation.

How many universities are there in Ukraine?

There are ten: in Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Zaporizhya, Kiev, Lviv, Odessa, Simferopol, Uzhgorod, Kharkov, Chernivtsy.

The oldest is the Lviv University founded in 1661, and the youngest one in Zaporizhya opened in 1985.

Most of the universities were opened in the Soviet period. They train specialists for national economy, science and culture, carry out postgraduate studies, grant decrees. Universities conduct a great scope of scientific-research work.

Studies at universities are free of charge. Students receive stipends, those who need it live in dormitories.

One of the biggest scientific, cultural and educational centers in Ukraine is the Kiev State University named after Taras Shevchenko. It was founded in 1834, and its main building was designed by Vincent Beretti in 1842. The building's walls are painted red, the iron base and capital of columns are black denoting the colors of ribbons of the St. Vladimir Order. The motto of the Order "Benefit, Honor and Glory" was the motto of the University.

At different times, the University turned out such

famous scientists and men of culture as D. K. Zabolotny, microbiologist; mathematician M. G. Chebotaryov; historian Ye. V. Tarle; physicist A. P. Alexandrov; writers M. T. Rylsky, Yaroslav Ivashkevich, M. O. Bulgakov, O. Ye. Korniychuk; composers M. V. Lysenko, L. M. Revutsky, M. A. Zavadsky.

In the Soviet period, the Kiev University is changed beyond compare. The campus has been built in the picturesque outskirts of the city with auditoriums, labs, libraries, comfortable dorms, canteens and sport facilities.

The University is the big scientific center, among those who finished it are 106 winners of State prizes of the USSR and Ukrainian SSR, 410 academicians and corresponding members of the USSR and UkrSSR Academies of Sciences.

Today, the University boasts 16 main departments and three auxiliary ones, 155 chairs, and 66 research sections. Close to 20,000 students are trained in 40 professions here. Schools of science established in the University carry out the research into mathematics, microelectronics, radiophysics, optics, electroscopy, chemistry, physiology, biochemistry, social and humanitarian sciences. Over 2700 scientists are engaged in studies in 31 scientific fields, take part in realization of 103 comprehensive goal-oriented problems. Students also take an active part in scientific work. For instance, V. Moyseyenko, then a five-year student of physics department, was awarded an international prize for his work "Effect of pressure on viscous properties of rare hydrocarbons." His work is of great practical significance since it helps precisely determine the behavior of oil and its products under pressure.

There are many students at the Kiev University from socialist countries, Africa, Asia and Latin America. They receive stipends amounting to 90—100 rubles per month from the Soviet state.

Foreign students usually start their education here at preparatory departments where they study Russian for one year and attend introductory lectures on their future professions.

Scholarship students of the Ukraina Society who represent the younger generation of Ukrainians living in Canada, the US and other countries, study the Ukrainian language, history and other sciences at the University.

The Ukraine's universities exchange students with institutions of higher learning abroad. For example, the Kiev University performs such an exchange with universities and colleges in England, the US and some other countries, the Chernivtsi University with the Saskatchewan University in Canada. In 1988, the agreement about the students' exchange was signed by the Lviv and Alberta (Canada) Universities. Today, some 2.5 thousand Soviet students study abroad. The number of the Soviet students who study in the USA increased threefold over the period of 1985—1988.

Can you tell about scientific potential of Ukraine?

The Soviet Ukraine boasts a powerful scientific potential. Ukrainian scientists carry out an intensive research into fundamental scientific problems at institutions of higher learning and branch research institutions. The biggest scientific establishment here is the UkrSSR Academy of Sciences set up in 1919. In involves 80 scientific centers and 83 major experimental plants, design bureaus, computation centers. Some 85,000 people work here. Each second scientist in Ukraine is engaged in the field of technology.

The Ukrainian scientists deal with many problems of global importance. Among them are the behavior of

elementary particles, control over thermonuclear synthesis, functioning of fast neutron breeder reactors, new types of power generators, genetic engineering application in biophysics, and so forth.

Many investigations have been conducted in Ukraine which are highly appreciated by the world science. These include the first home-made computers, achievements in cybernetics, welding, commercial production of superhard materials.

Tourist camp in Volyn Region

The Ukrainian scientists built the world's first accelerator of elementary particles, split the lithium nucleus, produced heavy water, heavy isotopes of oxygen and hydrogen, created the world-famous schools of mathematics, physiology, chemistry and physics. Of great practical importance are also the elaboration of physical basis for production of high-strength steel and alloys, new methods of their treatment. The study of atomic nucleus physics is closely connected with solution of .practical tasks in power engineering. Ukrainian scientists created new materials for radio electronics and computers.

Perestroika has deeply penetrated into scientific world as well. Much changed here over last three years. New payment principles were introduced, more than 100 scientific-production associations and interbranch scientific-technological complexes were set up in Ukraine. 20 centers of youth technological centers went over to full-scale cost accounting.

Scientists of Ukraine's Academy of Sciences have initiated a number of programs, among them: high temperature superconductivity, development of membrane technology for water distilling and purification, and so on. The Ukrainian scientists carry out an intensive research in the nature conservation field.

The said achievements have become a reality due to close cooperation with scientists from other Union Republics. It is revealed in coordination of scientific work to avoid duplication of research, to provide for useful information exchange, etc.

The Ukrainian scientists maintain close ties with their colleagues from CMEA countries which have the following five priorities to realize the program of technological progress till the year 2000: broad introduction of computers, comprehensive automation, new materials and technologies for their manufacture and treatment, biotechnology, nuclear power engineering.

A great deal of work is done in the field of social sciences. In particular, a new approach has been taken to study the history of Ukraine in order to reveal its "white spots", to properly assess the consequences of Stalin's repressions. Great significance is also attached to studies in the field of relations between nations and development of the Ukrainian language.

What is the contribution of Ukrainian scientists to the space flights and studies?

We'd say that it is rather big.

The first to join the efforts in this field was the E. O. Paton Institute of Electric Welding. Greated here were special equipment and "Vulcan" unit. Tney were intended for electron-beam welding and cutting, arc welding of aluminium, steel and titanium aboard the spaceship Salyut.

Next in line were biologists who designed equipment and created nutritive surroundings for growing plants in space. This resulted in obtainment by new data concerning the effect of lengthy space flights on functioning and structure of plant cells.

In 1980, another space experiment was carried out. The "Evaporator" unit designed by the E. O. Paton Electric Welding Institute was mounted aboard the orbital station Salyut-6. The unit helped produce some 200 samples of metal coatings applied on glass, polymer and metal surfaces which is impossible to accomplish on the Earth.

Scientists from Kharkiv Politechnic Institute have developed the technique of testing the construction materials in open space and designed the "Microdeformer" unit for such tests.

Specialists of the Institute of Physics of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences designed the "Electrograph" device to be installed in orbital stations. The

device was successfully tested in 1983 by cosmonauts V. Lyakhov and A. Alexandrov. Scientists from the Institute of Semiconductors designed the miniconverters for registering the temperature on space objects.

The Ukrainian scientists also created the electronic optical navigation system to be used in Soviet space stations which, according to the Vega project, were sent towards Halley's comet in 1986. The stations guided the European spaceship Jotto to approach the comet to a close distance.

Besides this, Ukrainian scientists take an active part in the Interkosmos International Program. In particular, the units produced in Ukraine and operating in artificial satellites make it possible to study magnetic and electric fields in ionosphere.

Can acceleration of scientific and technological progress become a reality in your country without application of Western technology and technological ideas?

Judge for yourself. In the 1980s, the trade with the USA amounted to only 1.5—2.2 percent of the USSR foreign-trade turnover, or 0.4 percent of gross national product. The share of industrial equipment imported from capitalist countries does not exceed 5—6 percent of all USSR investments to machine-building industry.

In the answers to the "Time" magazine, Mikhail Gorbachev underscored that we try to accelerate economic advance not by means of broad application of the US technology but by means of a wide-scale introduction of achievements of the Soviet science into Soviet industry and agriculture through more efficient use of our own scientific and technological potential. But we, naturally, do not ignore the advantages offered by mutually profitable cooperation with other countries, including the US.

Liquidation of limitations in this field, imposed by the US Administration in the past, would promote both mutual enrichment of our countries and strengthening of friendly ties between our peoples.

Do Ukrainian scientists maintain ties with their colleagues abroad?

A great contribution made by Ukrainian scientists to the world science are highly appreciated by their colleagues abroad. Thousands of them come to Ukraine each year to exchange experience, take part in conferences and symposia, get acquainted with the work of leading scientific centers. In their turn, quite a few Ukrainian scientists annually go abroad to do the same. The UkrSSR Academy of Sciences participates in the activities of research centers abroad, in particular, in such joint international scientific undertakings as Interkosmos, Interbrain, Planetary Geophysical Investigations, Cybernetics and Catalysis.

The Academy is an active member of the Intergovernmental Oceanologic Commision, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Institute of Applied Analysis System, International Organization for Brain Study, the UNESCO Committee for the study of Slav Cultures, and a number of others. Such activities stimulate fundamental and applied research in Ukraine, raise the international prestige of Ukrainian science.

Quite a few local scientific innovations have become popular abroad. For instance, the electric slag casting method developed at the E. O. Paton Institute has been patented in Sweden, Japan, the USA, and other countries.

One more example. Ukrainian specialists have designed a new unit "Kriotron LOR-2" intended for

malignant tumor elimination and inflammation process control. Its operating principle is based on the use of low temperatures and ultrasound. The unit has also been patented in many countries, among them Great Britain, the FRG and the USA.

Recently, some institutions of higher learning in Ukraine and Texas have concluded the agreement on conducting joint scientific research.

Palace of pioneers in Zaporizhya

The agreement on creation of joint Ukrainian-Bulgarian Foundry Center has also been signed. The center will include the companies functioning in the field of welding, powder metallurgy, technical ceramics, composite alloys, etc.

International scientific cooperation is beneficial for all the participants. This fact has been repeatedly proved by fruitful ties of the USSR, including Ukraine, with scientific institutions abroad.

How can you explain the fact that your Republic has not become the international center for the scholars engaged in Ukrainian studies?

1989 was the year of establishment of International Association on Ukrainian Studies with the center in Kiev. It was in 1988 when participants of the Soviet-American symposium on the issues of Ukrainian literature discussed the initiative of the UkrSSR Academy of Sciences concerning the creation of such association. Many scholars throughout the world study Ukrainian history, arts, ethnography, folklore. The centers of Ukrainian studies function in the USA, Canada, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, England, France, Australia, and many other countries.

Secretariat of the Association will permanently stay in Kiev. National committees will be established as well. All this will stimulate the worldwide interest to life, history and language of Ukraine.

How many Ukrainian newspapers are published in the Republic?

Over 1700 newspapers are issued in Ukraine. Some three-quarters of them are in Ukrainian, the rest in Russian, Hungarian, Moldavian and other languages.

More newspaper copies are published in Ukraine per 1000 residents than in the USA and France.

The biggest circulations belong to "Radyanska Ukraina" (380,000 copies), "Pravda Ukraini" (410,000), "Robitnicha Hazetta (bilingual, 440,000 copies), "Silski Visti" (2.145 thou copies). There are also newspapers for the youth, children, periodicals of ministries of culture and education, etc.

With perestroika, local mass media do much to strengthen democracy and glasnost, critisize bureaucracy hindering the country's socioeconomic advance. There are 16,000 journalists in the Republic.

What is the state of affairs in book printing?

Our people read much. According to statistics, the working people in urban areas weekly spend 16 hours for studies and self-education.

There exists a broad network of multibranch and specialized publishing houses in Ukraine (26, not counting regional and branch publishers). 60,000 people are engaged in book publishing field which also includes 538 printing houses. Eight thousand titles of books are annually put out in the Republic with the total edition of 150-180 mln copies. The subject matter of the literature encompasses all branches of human knowledge. However, the demand of local readers is satisfied only by 40-50 percent. Here we annually publish only 3 books per capita, that is, three times less the country's average. Ukraine takes the 9th place as regards the per capita output of books. Such state of affairs can be explained by insufficient number of printing houses and paper shortage.

Within 120 prerevolutionary years, only 10,000 books all told were issued in Ukraine while in the period of 1918—1988 the number of titles reached over 370,000 in almost 6 bln copies.

More than 65 percent of the entire circulation and more than three-quarters of fiction are in the Ukrainian language.

Ukrainian readers buy books translated into Ukrainian from 56 languages of the Soviet nations and 47 languages of other countries.

Books are also published here in Russian, the language of international communication in this country. These mainly include the works on science and technology, public health care and social science, etc. Such publications promote mutual enrichment of national cultures.

Many books are devoted to Ukraine's history. For instance, last year publication of 10-volume edition of old-Rus and old-Ukrainian chronicles was started. Also published in Ukraine were "The Chronicle of Bygone Years" and "Russian Chronicle according to Ipatiy Codex of the 15th century." Local publishers are planning to issue the chronicles of Samovidets, Hrihoriy Hrabyanka, "Galic-Volyn Chronicles." All of them will be illustrated.

Starting from 1990, Ukrainian publishing houses will put out the works of D. Yavornitsky, P. Kulish, M. Kostomarov, Ye. Hrebinka, M. Drahomanov, M. Hrushetsky.

It is also planned to publish in future "The Library of Historical Prose" involving "Koliivshchina" by I. Gluhenky, "Sahaidachny" by A. Chaikovsky, "Idols will fall", "Golden lion" by Yu. Opilsky, "Helmets in Sun" by K. Hrinevicheva, "The shadow's dream", "Ancestor" by N. Koroleva, "Volyn and Poltava stories" by O. Levitsky, "Dovbush", "Berestechko" by H. Hotkevich, and many others.

"The library of Ukrainian literature" in 80 volumes keeps being published. It includes the works of Ukrainian classics of prewar and Soviet period. Publication of 15-volume "Library of Ukraine oral folklore" has been completed. Recently issued were the first two volumes of "Complete collected works of Taras Shevchenko" in 12 volumes.

The books of Ukrainian publishers are exported to 120 countries. The total annual amount of sales to foreign book-selling companies has reached upwards of 6 mln rubles.

How does Ukrainian SSR fulfill the UNESCO Convention on protection of mankind's cultural heritage?

This Convention was proclaimed already in the year 1972, but it was only in 1988 when the USSR, Ukraine and Byelorussia included, joined it though they had been actively participating in preparation of this important international document. Such late ratification was the consequence of the period of stagnation in the USSR history.

Fulfilling Convention's provisions, Ukraine takes an active part in the World's decade of cultural development (1988—1997) under the UNESCO's auspices, in particular, special National Committee has been set up in the Republic. It proposes to include into the UNESCO List of Mankind's Cultural Heritage such famous monuments as the Saint-Sophia Cathedral in Kiev, Kiev Pechersk Lavra, ancient cathedrals in Chernihiv, the town of Kamyanetsk-Podilsky, old part of Lviv, etc.

The Committee has worked out the following seven goal-oriented programs: "Folk song, folk art", "Youth and art", "Theater and music", "Folk art in people's culture", "Folk art in Ukraine", "Museums of Ukraine", the series of publications "National cultural gains of the Ukrainian people".

The said Committee is also engaged in organizing in Kiev of the State museum of material and spiritual culture of the Ukrainian SSR and the Museum of Lost Values of the Ukrainian People. Besides, new museums of traditional and folk art are created in the Republic.

It is also planned to build anew the Assumption Church, the Church of our Lady of Pirogoshcha in Kiev, to open the preserve "Kiev-Mohilyanska academy" and the other one, "Cossak beyond the Danube" in Odessa Region.

Within the framework of the said Decade, it is also planned to expand international cooperation in the field of culture. The Days of Ukraine will be held in the next few years all over the world.

What was the purpose of setting up the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation?

The Soviet Cultural Foundation was set up in 1986 on the initiative of public organizations, men of culture and arts. Since that time, similar foundations were being established in all Union Republics. In April, 1987 48 state and public organizations set up in Kiev the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation. It was underscored at the constituent conference that creation of the Foundation would help draw different strata of population into cultural activities, use their material and creative capacities for enrichment of national culture. The Foundation provides material, moral and legal support to further development of professional and amateur creative work, promotes the realization of artistic conceptions and projects. In its activities, the Foundation makes use of donations of Soviet and foreign citizens, public organizations, creative unions both in terms of money and as the works of literature, folk art, historical collections and manuscripts.

The Foundation takes an active part in strengthening international cultural ties and exchanges, searches for the lost values of national culture. Together with Ukraina Society, the Foundation addressed the Ukrainians living abroad to share the efforts aimed

at returning the national riches, taken abroad in the past, back to Ukraine.

According to available data, 130,000 exhibits of museums, 13,000 paintings, 53,000 graphic works, almost 70,000 articles of decorative and applied art were taken from Ukraine during WWII. Only a small part of those riches were returned to Ukraine after the war.

Computer center of Zaporizhya University

The Ukrainian Cultural Foundation strives to efficiently use and augment the Ukraine's cultural potential which includes, in general, almost 100 state theatres and theatrical studios, 26,000 cultural clubs, 200 state and over 1000 public museums, dozens of professional art companies and thousands of amateur folk art groups. This is also almost 1 billion books in the local libraries, some 100,000 historical and cultural monuments protected by the state. In addition, the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences possesses unique collections of folklore music and valuable manuscripts. It is the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation and other public organizations that must propely protect and efficiently use these priceless riches.

What can you tell of amateur art in Ukraine?

Ukraine is often called the Land of Nightingales. She has gained such fame by her enchanting songs, gifted singers and composers, the love of Ukrainians of melodious songs and fiery dances.

There is probably not a single village, enterprise or educational establishment in Ukraine without an amateur art group. Amateur art activities involve today upwards of 7 million people. In Ukraine, there are 20,000 choirs, ensembles, capellas of bandura players, close to 30,000 theatrical groups. Intensively built in the Republic's villages are cultural centers consisting of a house of culture or club, movie theater, a library, gym, art and music school and so on.

Amateur artistic activities are supported materially by the state, so that every person can develop his artistic ability. The Ukraine's government annually allocates over 600 mln rubles for maintenance of cultural establishments.

The Kiev, Kharkiv and Rovno colleges of culture, numerous musical schools turn out each year 3.5 thousand highly skilled conductors, musicians and choreographers.

What folk crafts are there in Ukraine?

A part of Ukrainian folk art are diverse and rich folk crafts which develop in the spirit of people's traditions.

Many representatives of applied decorative art are members of the USSR Union of Artists. Their works are displayed at exhibitions together with those of professionals. They have been presented with honorary titles and state awards. For example, folk artist Maria Prymachenko had personal exhibitions in Austria, Italy and France. Weavers Hanna Vasilashchuk and Hanna Veres illustrated one of the best editions of Shevchenko's Kobzar. All these have become laureates of the Shevchenko State Prize of the Ukrainian SSR. Ukrainian folk craftsmen represent the art of Ukraine at large All-Union and foregn exhibitions. Ukrainian handicraft shops are very popular among our guests from abroad.

Among the souvenirs they buy are Huzal pisanki (painted wooden articles), Kosiv majolica, Poltava embroidery, Reshetilivka and Krolevets weaving, Kremenchuk carving, Opishnya ceramics, Petrikivka drawings and Carpathian rugs.

Traditional folk art undergoes a rapid progress, its artistic level rises. Many Canadians were convinced of this at the personal exhibition "National Motifs in Modern Ukrainian Fashions and Needlework" of Stefaniya Kulchytska from Lviv which was held in many cities of Canada.

Folk art is the basis for development of all types of professional art, a source of cultural enrichment of the people.

Who pays in Ukraine for preservation and restoration of cultural monuments?

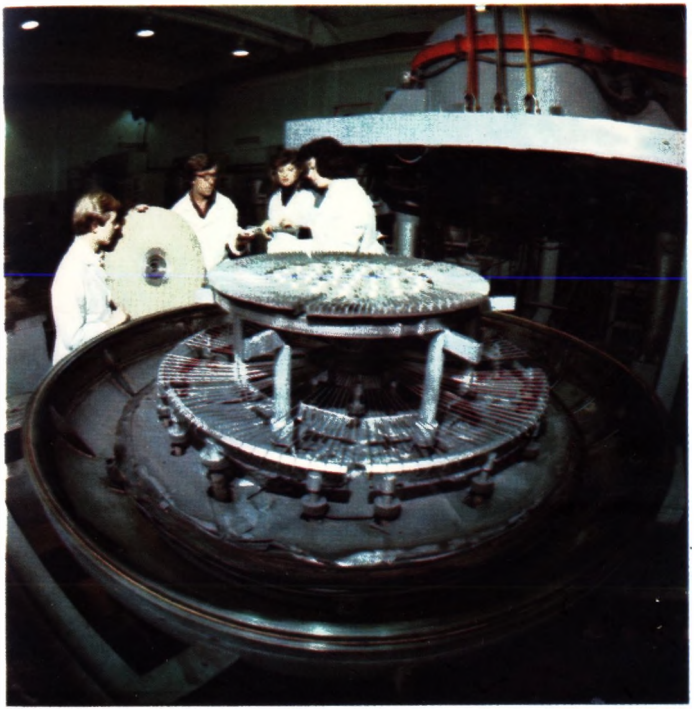
Usually, the state does. The monuments' restoration consumes much money as a result of its broad scale and the need for modern technology. For instance, restoration of the 18th century Church of St. Andrew in Kiev cost the state 3 mln rubles. Even bigger amount of money is channeled from the state budget for preserving the Kiev-Pechersk Lavra, the world-famous historic and architectural preserve with over 80 stone-made structures built in the 11th—18th centuries. Many new museums have been opened here, among them book and printing museum, the ones of historic treasures, folk and theatrical art, etc. The territory of the so-called Distant Cathacombs with St. Danyil Monastery has been turned over to the Ukrainian Exacharchate.

Quite a few monuments of the past have been preserved in Ukraine despite numerous invasions and wars when many priceless riches of her history were lost. The heedful attitude to this heritage is a characteristic feature of today. The downtown part of Lviv, the ancient town of Kamyanets-Podylsky have been turned into historical and architectural preserves. It is planned to set up similar preserves in Sevastopol, Lutsk, Feodosiya, Belgorod-Dnistrovsky and Novgorod-Seversky. The law protects 97,000 historical and architectural monuments. In recent years, over 300 new monuments were erected. They are listed in recently issued catalogue "Monuments of history and culture of the Ukrainian SSR".

The law On the Protection and Use of Monuments of History and Culture has been adopted in this country. It specifies broad participation of trade unions, youth organizations, scientific societies and individuals in protection and restoration of monuments.

Actively participating in this activity is the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments set up in 1966. It has a membership of some 18,000,000. It is engaged in finding the yet unknown monuments, exercises the control over restoration works, takes measures to prevent the damage of historical monuments during construction works.

In the Institute of Superhard materials of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences



In particular, the Museum of Folk Architecture and Everyday Life has been established in Kiev upon the initiative and at the society's expense. The museum represents all ethnographic zones of Ukraine. Similar open-air museums have been built in Pereyaslav-Kmelnitsky, Lviv, Uzhgorod ano other towns. New monuments built in the Republic perpetuate the feats of our people in their struggle against enemies, for social and national freedom. 30,000 obelisks and memorial complexes have been built in Ukraine devoted to the period of the Great Patriotic War (1941—1945).

Almost 10,000 collectives of industrial works, collective farms and educational establishments took part in the Republican public program during which over 20,000 monuments, memorials and common graves of those perished in WWII were restored.

However, it is worth stressing that in the last decades, the state of affairs in the field of monuments' preservation was far from being perfect. There exist quite a few shortcomings in coordination of actions of state and public bodies, material and technical basis of restoration works badly needs to be strengthened. Civil and Criminal Code still have no provisions stipulating the punishment for those who damaged historical monuments. Despite such shortcomings, the Society carries out a great deal of work. For instance, it has paid 1.4 mln rubles for restoration and repair of Saint Sophia Cathedral, the places where Taras Shevchenko lived and Pechersk Lavra Monastery.

In their free time, thousands of people carry out a noble function of restoration, repair and protection of historical monuments. Engaged in this work are numerous groups of young people, newly created specialized coops and building organizations.

In its activities, the Society often has to surmount bureaucratic obstacles, and its victories in this strug-

gle are plenty. Among them, preservation of the Kreshchatik (central street in Kiev) in its today's appearance; termination of funicular railway construction through Podil, the Kiev's ancient part; prohibition of building the highway through the island of Hortitsya in Zaporizhya which would make a great harm to this historical monument of Ukraine. Instead, it was decided to restore here the ethnographic complex

Exhibition of Mariya Zaremska's embroidery

Cossack Sich (fort beyond the rapids) with church, windmill, tavern, cannon and forge shops, etc. The area of 10 hectares will be encircled with fence and ancient watchtowers. Construction of this preserve will be commenced in 1991 and finished in two years.

How is the memory of Taras Shevchenko revered in Ukraine?

You really wouldn't find anybody in Ukraine who doesn't revere the memory of Taras Shevchenko, a great man, revolutionary democrat, poet, artist and philosopher. The same holds for the Entire Soviet Union. The All-Union Shevchenko Literary Arts Festival is annually held in March when numerous guests from all Union Republics come to Kiev. Among them are prominent poets, writers, playwrites, translators. Celebrations start in Kiev, and then go to Cherkassy Region, Shevchenko's birth place. Taking place there are film festivals, socials, recitals of Shevchenko's poems, lectures, readers' conferences and performances of folk art groups.

The 175th birth anniversary of Great Kobzar was solemnly marked in 1989 in the Kiev Theater of Opera and Ballet bearing his name. The jubilee meeting was held in Kiev in March attended by the representatives of Ukraine's public, guests from other Union Republics, Canada, the USA, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia. The Republican conference, dedicated to Shevchenko's life and work, also took place in Kiev.

In May, the traditional All-Union celebrations called "In the family free and new", meetings and concerts at the poet's monument in Kiev and at his grave in Kaniv, the All-Union festival "Kiev Spring" and the All-Union holiday of Slav literacy and culture were also devoted to the jubilee. Participants to the International symposium dedicated to study of the

Great Kobzar's heritage made a trip along the Dnieper.

No matter what place in Ukraine you might visit, there's always something reminding you of the great son of the Ukrainian people — streets, schools, libraries, monuments, museums, farms and plants have been named in his honor.

The Institute of Literature of the Ukrainian SSR also bears the poet's name. This institute has contri-

Folk art festival

buted much to the study of Kobzar's works and life. Its staff took part in publication of the 10-volume complete works of Taras Shevchenko, the 6-volume collected works, such fundamental editions as "T. G. Shevchenko. Biography", "Shevchenko Studies. Results and Problems"; a 2-volume "Shevchenko Dictionary"; works and bibliography of jubilee literature including 20,000 references. Since 1954, proceedings of the Shevchenko conferences have been regularly published. Ye. Kyryliuk and Ye. Shabliovsky have been awarded the Lenin Prize for their spectacular achievements in the field of Shevchenko studies.

In Soviet period, Shevchenko's works were published in Ukrainian some 400 times with the total circulation exceeding 27,000,000 copies.

Monuments to the great man stand in Kiev, Kanev, Kharkiv, Poltava and many other towns and villages.

Taras Hill, where the Kanev State Museum-Preserve Grave of T. G. Shevchenko is located, is visited by numerous guests from this country and abroad. Over 9,000,000 people from 125 countries came here during 50 years of the museum's existence to pay their respects.

In 1961, the UkrSSR Council of Ministers instituted the annual Taras Shevchenko State Prize in the field of literature, art and architecture. These prizes are awarded each year on Shevchenko's birthday with presentation of diploma and honorary badge.

The name of Shevchenko is revered all over the Soviet Union. The Taras Shevchenko liners go along the Dnieper, Neva, Amu-Darya and on the Black Sea. A home-museum of T. G. Shevchenko was opened at the Arts Academy in Leningrad, and a scholarship

Famous sculptor and collector Ivan Honchar in his home museum

bearing his name was instituted. A new town of Shevchenko was built on the Caspian Sea's shore, and Alexandrovsky Fort, where the poet was in exile, was named Fort Shevchenko.

Shevchenko's muse, his ideas of humanism, freedom and fraternity are near and dear to all nations, and herein lies the immortality of his name.

What is the attitude of local authorities to Shevchenko's monuments abroad?

The attitude is quite benevolent, they are always ready to help in erecting the monuments, if requested.

In 1951, the monument to Taras Shevchenko was unveiled in Palermo (Canada). The poet's bronze statue stands there on the pedestal made of polished granite which had been shipped from Zhitomir Region. Famous sculptors M. Vronsky and O. Oliynik created the image of Great Kobzar who is looking forward calling upon the people to fight for freedom. 45,000 people attended the solemn ceremony, including the officials from Ukraine and the USA. Organizers of the ceremony sent to Ukraine "The Letter of Gratitude", which stated, in particular: "Before the just unveiled monument to Great Kobzar on the Canadian soil, before the great gift of Yours, the Ukrainian people, we are standing now and recall the days, when shedding tears, we were parting with our beloved Ukraine having been forced to do so by misery and oppression. We built our new life here but never forgot the land of our fathers and brothers, the Ukrainian people, the people from whose sources we derived our national awareness and cultural wealth..."

When in the fall of 1988, bandits burnt down the Museum of Taras Shevchenko in Palermo, The Ukraina Society, Ukraine's public, state bodies and ministries expressed their readiness to rebuild this museum, only one of its kind in America. It is planned to open the

new museum in 1991. During 1989, the exhibits and money for Palermo were gathered. This is a vivid example of the attitude on the part of Ukraine's authorities and public towards the Shevchenko places abroad.

Erection of monuments to Taras Shevchenko and Olexandr Pushkin, the greatest Russian poet, in Arrow Park near New York has become a great event in the history of cultural ties between the Soviet Ukraine and the USA. Short after this, the Park was decorated with sculptures of Yanka Kupala, a classic of Byelorussian literature and famous American poet Walt Whitman. All these are the gifts of the Soviet people.

Monuments to Shevchenko have been erected by local Ukrainian communities in Washington, Buenos Aires, Winnipeg, Paraguay, Bukharest, Toulouse, Vatikan, and some other places. In Paris, Shalette-sur-Loign (France) there stand Shevchenko monuments presented by Ukraine. The monument to Shevchenko was also unveiled in 1988 in the village of Bily Bir (Poland). This is Ukraine's gift to local Ukrainian boarding school.

The authors of this book saw some of these monuments in the USA, Canada, and witnessed how carefully they are protected by the local citizens of Ukrainian origin, how great is the popularity of Great Kobzar so far from his native Ukraine.

All in all, there are over 400 monuments to Taras Shevchenko on our planet.

We know, that the public of Kiev has been making big efforts to turn the place of Kiev-Mohilyanska Academy into museum-preserve. What's the situation today?

The UkrSSR Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Culture and the Kiev Executive Committee supported the public's initiative.

The preserve will show its visitors the history of this Academy which was the first educational establishment and scientific center in Eastern-Slav lands, as well as its role in development of home science, education and culture in the 17th-18th centuries.

It is planned to restore the interiors, in particular, the frescoes in Old Academic building and ancient furniture. The main exhibits, telling of the Academy's history, its prominent scientists and graduates, will be also displayed here. The library hall will accommodate the collections of books and manuscripts presently kept at the Ukrainian SSR Central scientific library. The collections will be available for readers. All restoration works will be completed in 1995.

It is envisaged to restore the entire complex of this Academy thus enabling the visitors to get familiar with the Brothers Monastery and New Academic building housing the rooms for studying mathematics, physics, chemistry and other sciences.

The building of Academic theater will also be restored. Here the visitors will see the stage settings and the clothes of professors and students. Restoration works will also involve the Academy's cemetry where many prominent men of culture and state leaders were buried, among them P. Konashevich-Sahaidachny, hetman of Cossak host.

We know that there is the "Slavutich" society in Ukraine. What functions does it carry out?

"Slavutich" is the society set up in Moscow for all those who love the Ukrainian culture, involving not only the Ukrainians living in the capital but people of other nationalities as well. The society is headed by writer A. Ivanchenko.

Today, the young Ukrainians, despite the place of their birth or residence, display a great interest to

the Ukrainian language and history. Therefore, the basic task of the Society is to carry out educational work among the young. With this aim in view, the summer pioneer camps and kindergartens will be set up where the children will speak Ukrainian. Students of the Republican pedagogical colleges will be the teachers there. Special extramural courses will be organized for teenagers. In addition to the language, children will also study the Ukrainian literature and history.

As far as adults are concerned, two schools (literary and language) have already been established for them.

Special commission of the Society is registering in Moscow the places connected with Ukraine in order to take part in their future restoration. The youth section of the Society decided to start its activities from restoration of the old house which belonged to Academician Vernadsky, the world famous scientist and the 1st President of the Ukraine's Academy of Sciences.

The Society prepares to resume the work of the Ukrainian Drama Theater House which functioned in Moscow but was closed in 1930s upon the order of Stalin. It is planned to set up the folk song and dance group, capella of bandura players and music school.

"Slavutich" has established close ties with the Moscow Society of Armenian culture "Barev dses" (all the best to you). Both societies developed the joint program involving the festivals of folk songs, poetry, applied art exhibitions, etc.

All creative unions and public organizations of Ukraine, as well as Metropolitan Filaret support the Society's activities.

Some members of "Slavutich" made a trip to the Aral Sea area where Taras Shevchenko spent ten years in exile. There, in Aralsk, the Society, together with the unions of writers and artists of Ukraine,

erected the monument to Great Kobzar and set up a memorial park with the total area of 40 hectares to mark the 175th anniversary of the poet's birth.

Activities of "Slavutich" and other similar societies is a graphic example of how the national culture traditions and friendly relations of the Soviet nations should be preserved and developed.

Activities of the Society of Ukrainian Culture, which functioned in the past, have also been resumed.

The Ukrainian Language Society has been created in Ukraine. Such informal societies, functioning in many Ukrainian towns, enjoy a strong support on the part of local authorities.

Are sports and physical training popular in Ukraine?

Almost every third person here is engaged in a certain kind sports or physical training. Such mass character of physical culture and sports is a part of the Soviet way of life, one of the prerequisites for harmonious development of the people's spiritual and physical capacities.

Upwards of 18,000,000 people attend today some 47,000 sports and physical training clubs. Ukraine boasts over 1000 stadiums, 15,000 gyms, approximately 420 swimming pools and many other sports facilities. All of them belong to the state and public organizations.

More than 60,000 skilled coaches help train those going in for sports. Special weeks of runners, swimmers and other athletes are held each year. Millions take part in these competitions. The so-called health groups function at many stadiums where people of all ages (mostly the elderly) undergo physical training under the guidance of coaches and doctors. Quite popular in Ukraine are aerobics clubs. There exist some 600 consultation centers where everybody can assess

his level of physical training, functional capabilities and get the necessary consultations. Over 1000 junior sports schools for gifted young athletes function in the Republic.

Can you name a few Ukrainian athletes of the top world grade?

Such athletes are plenty, but to name a few let's mention, first of all Larissa Latynina from Kiev, ten times Olympic Champion, 8 times World Champion, and presently a coach. She boasts 18 medals in her Olympic collection. She was the best in gymnastic events at the Olympic Games in Melbourne, Rome and Tokyo.

At the Olympic Games in Helsinki and Rome, gymnast from Lviv Victor Chukarin won 6 gold, 4 silver and 1 bronze medals. In the 1960s, the world strongest man was Leonid Zhabotinsky from Zaporizhya. He took the gold in two Olympic Games in Tokyo and Mexico.

Kievite Valery Borzov is presently an official of the Ukraine's Committee for Physical Culture and Sport. At 19, he became the European Champion in the 100 meter dash. Four years later, Valery went down in the history of sports having won two gold medals in the 100 and 200 meter dash at the Olympic Games in Munich. Borzov was the first Soviet Olympic Champion in the sprint event. However, mass media of many countries call Serhiy Bubka, pole-vault jumper from Donetsk, the world's strongest athlete. He is Olympic Champion in Seoul, and many times world champion.

One of the strongest sport teams of the world are the Kiev women's Spartac handball team and the

Kamyanets-Podilsky — town-preserve

р.СМОТРИЧ

Kiev Dynamo soccer team. Spartac is many times USSR Champion and winner of the European Cup. Its players are the backbone of the USSR National, one of the world's best teams. Dynamo is 12 times USSR Champion, 8 times winner of the USSR Cup and European Cup Winner's Cup. Oleg Blokhin, presently playing in Austria, was the strongest player. In 1975, he became winner of the European Gold Ball.

Included in symbolic European soccer team in 1988 were players of Kiev Dynamo Olexiy Mikhailichenko and Olexandr Zavarov who now plays for Italian Juventus.

How did Ukrainian athletes perform at the Olympic Games in Seoul? Why hasn't Ukraine got its own Olympic Team?

The Ukrainian athletes performed in Seoul as a part of the Soviet National Olympic Team which won 132 medals, that is, more than any other country. Sportsmen from the Ukrainian SSR took part in 22 events and took 63 medals, among them 19 gold. We can give such names of gold winners as runners Olga Bryzgina (2 gold medals) and Tetyana Samiylenko from Zaporizhya, vaulter Serhiy Bubka, jumper Hennadiy Avdeenko from Odessa, cyclists Sumy Olexandr Kirichenko, soccer player Olexiy Mikhailichenko and many others.

Ukraine, and other Union Republics do not perform in the Olympic Games, World, European Championships as separate teams since they are not members of the International Olympic Committee and international federations in many sport events while the USSR is member of these organizations.

Ukraine and the world

UKRAINE AND THE WORLD

Are there any grounds, taking into account International Law, to regard Ukraine as a member of the UN?

On June 26, 1945, the International Conference in San Francisko approved the Charter of the United Nations Organization. Invited to that conference were delegations from Ukraine and Byelorussia — sovereign states which suffered most of all during WWII and made a great contribution to the rout of Hitlerite Germany. They were among 51 founding member states of the UN.

Head of the Ukrainian delegation D. Manuilsky was elected chairman of the conference committee charged with elaboration of preamble, goals and principles of the UN Charter. This document begins with the words: "We, the peoples of the United Nations, resolve to save future generations from the scourges of war..." This goal stipulates the basic duty of the UN — safeguarding and strengthening peace, developing the all-round cooperation between nations. Ukraine's activity at the UN is channeled to fulfillment of this noble mission.

Being a member of the UN, Ukraine condemns aggression, lays bare the shameful crimes of colonialism, works for observance of human rights and International Law, advances constructive proposals aimed at raising the UN efficiency and development of equal international cooperation.

Today, the Republic is member of 20 intergovernmental organizations and over 70 permanent or non-permanent organs of these organizations. Such a wide

representation in the UN provides her with a real opportunity to directly participate in discussions and solution of the most burning issues of today.

In the 1970s, the treaties were signed with participation of Ukraine or upon her initiative on nonproliferation of nuclear arms, banning the deployment of mass destruction weapons on the sea and ocean floor, banning bacteriological and chemical weapons, banning the use of environment for military purposes, and so on.

Many times, Ukraine was elected to such UN bodies as the Social and Economic Council, Auditing Commission, Human Rights Commission, Commission on Refugees, Social Development Commission, and others. In 1983, the UN General Assembly for the second time elected the Ukrainian SSR a nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council for 1984—1985. This was one more recognition of Ukraine's contribution to the peace movement.

At the grave of Great Kobzar

Ukraine's representatives were repeatedly elected to leading posts in the UN framework. The Republic not only supports the initiatives of the USSR delegation but often puts forward her own proposals actively working together with delegations from other countries. The Ukraine's coauthorship in various documents and resolutions has nothing to do with participation of the USSR delegation in their preparation on elaboration. Ukraine is a coauthor of quite a few resolutions in which the USSR, Byelorussia or other socialist countries did not participate.

Today, Ukraine is member of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid in which the USSR delegation does not participate. In October 1988, the Ukrainian SSR was coordinator of the group of socialist countries and made joint statements on their behalf in the UN. At the 43d Session of the General Assembly (1988), the Ukrainian delegation was a coauthor of numerous resolutions. In particular, it coauthored the main initiative of the socialist countries on comprehensive approach to strengthening international peace and security. At that session, Ukraine took part in elaboration of over 40 resolutions. In the Third Committee dealing with humanitarian, social and cultural matters, the Republic was the author of the resolution on international cooperation in the field of human rights. The Ukrainian delegates made more than 60 speeches at the 43d Session. The Ukrainian delegation was elected to the Economic and Social Council for the period of 1989—1991.

The aforegiven facts are but a small part of the diverse activities of the Ukrainian SSR at the UN.

Besides her work in the UN, Ukraine participates in specialized international organizations whose activities are directed to strengthening cooperation among nations and favor cultural, economic and scientific

progress of all countries. The Republic is a member of ILO, IAEA and many other important international bodies.

How many consulates of other countries are there in Ukraine?

Functioning in Kiev are General Consulates of Bulgaria, Mongolia, the GDR, the FRG, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Cuba; in Odessa — General Consulates of Bulgaria, India and Cuba; in Kharkiv — a mission of General Consulate of Cuba.

The Consulates play a notable role in bilateral international relations of Ukraine. Maintaining direct ties with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they help solve issues of mutual interest.

It is planned to open in Kiev the General Consulates of the USA, India.

What is the Ukraine's role in UNESCO activities?

The Ukrainian SSR is a UNESCO member since 1954. Functioning in the Republic is the National Commission of the Ukrainian SSR for UNESCO involving famous scientists, artists and public figures. The Bulletin of the Ukrainian SSR Commission for UNESCO is published here since 1970 in English, French and Spanish. Soon it will be issued in Ukrainian as well. The Ukraine's mission at UNESCO works in Paris.

The Ukraine's activities within the UNESCO framework first of all involve realization of important international scientific programs. Here the Republic makes a great scope of work on dissiminating scientific knowledge, the study and preservation of national cultures. She gets the world public familiar with her cultural heritage through publishing in UNESCO periodicals the data on the Ukraine's contribution

to the world's culture, organizes the exhibitions devoted to her achievements in cultural, scientific and educational fields.

Upon the Republic's initiative, UNESCO decided to mark Shevchenko's 150th birth anniversary throughout the world. UNESCO also took part in adopting the decisions on marking the jubilees of Ivan Franko, Lesya Ukrainka, Mikhailo Kotsubinsky, Olga Kobylyanska, Hrihory Skovoroda, Yevhen Hrebinka and other outstanding representatives of Ukrainian literature, art and science.

The Ukrainian scientists have been working for a long time on realization of the UNESCO project for the study of Slav cultures, the program Man and the Biosphere, international programs on geology, hydrology and oceanology.

Associations of peace supporters function in many countries. Have you gotten such an association in Ukraine?

Yes, we have. This is the Ukrainian Peace Committee, a public organization set up in 1951, whose membership is over 500,000. The Committee has a broad network of committees and commissions in regions, towns, district centers, and work collectives. Today, the Committee is headed by Oles Honchar, well-known Ukrainian writer and WWII veteran. He and Vasyl Komisarenko, member of the Committee's Presidium, are members of the World Peace Council.

The Committee conducts a great deal of work on spreading the information about peaceful initiatives of the Soviet Government and successes gained by peace-loving forces. Upon the Committee's initiative the following mass compaigns are held in the Republic: Week of Action for Security and Cooperation in Europe, May 5—11; Week of Peace, June 22; Week

of Action for banning nuclear arms, August 6—13; International Peace Day, September 1; Week of Action for Disarmament, October 24—31, and so on. The Committee maintains close ties with almost 200 organizations of peace campaigners in other countries. Many international forums of peace supporters are held in Ukraine. For instance, a meeting of peace supporters from socialist countries took place in Lviv on

Olexander Zavarov is going to score

the topic: European Security and Cooperation. Struggle of the European Public against Neutron Weapons.

Mass international peace campaigns are strongly supported in the Republic. For example, during collection of signatures under the 2nd Stockholm Appeal for curbing nuclear arms race and for disarmament, 185,000 meetings and rallies were held in Ukraine within 2 months. The Appeal was signed by 36 mln persons.

We in Ukraine know well the horrors of war, and that is why we also know the price for peace. The Ukrainian people strongly support the program for complete elimination of all arsenals of nuclear and chemical weapons by the end of this century, the ban of space-based strike weapons, proposed in the statement of Mikhail Gorbachev on January 15, 1986. They completely approve of the proposal advanced at the 27th CPSU Congress on the basis of setting up a system of international security.

International trips along the Dnieper in 1987-1988 gained a great popularity in Ukraine. In 1988, delegations of over 100 antiwar organizations from Europe, the USA and New Zealand took part in such a trip. Peace campaigners from the Soviet Union and the USA participated in another trip. "Disarmament: assessments and hopes," "Who are we?" were the topics of their discussions.

It was also in 1988, when the delegation of Ukrainian peace champions marched from Washington to Los Angeles. It included workers, teachers, artists, peasants, journalists, students, the firemen who took part in liquidation of accident at Chernobyl APS.

The Soviet-American Peace March from Odessa to Kiev in 1988 was also a big event. 230 Americans and the same number of Soviet people took part in it. On their way, they helped local farmers gather the harvest.

Lately, the Republican Peace Committee established ties with antiwar organizations in Great Britain, the Netherlands and in many other countries.

Informal organization "Green light" has been set up with the help of the Committee. It deals with nature conservation problems and protection of state preserves.

In 1986, Ukraine's public marked the 35th anniversary of the Ukrainian Peace Committee which makes a ponderable contribution to the world peace movement.

Days of the Soviet Union are held in many countries using Ukraine as the example. Who organizes such undertakings?

Usually, this is the Ukrainian Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries whose activities are aimed at safeguarding peace and friendship among all countries and nations, at acquainting the public in other countries with achievements gained by the Soviet Ukraine in economy, culture and science.

The Society comprises 17 Republic, 430 regional, city and district branches. It maintains close ties with 795 organizations in 100 countries.

One of the main tasks of this public organization is broadening friendly relations between the working people of the UkrSSR and workers in other countries. The Society maintains close contacts with similar societies in this country, actively promotes mutual exchange of information on the life abroad. It organizes tourist trips, in particular, to the USA and Canada, organizes exhibitions, issues the monthly press bulletin "In Soviet Ukraine" in six languages.

The Society regularly arranges the meetings of friendship, Ten-day Festivals of literature and arts of foreign countries, organizes the train trips of friend-

ship. A popular form of its activity is Days of the Soviet Union on the example of Ukraine held in many countries.

In 1988, such Days took place in Poland, Jordan, Norway, Great Britain, Belgium, Luxembourg, Greece, Spain and France. Mass media in these countries gave a broad coverage of numerous events taking place during the Days.

In addition to official diplomacy, numerous public organizations, offices and industrial works also maintain ties with foreign partners. They are expressed in direct sociopolitical, cultural and educational, trade and economic, scientific and technological contacts.

What are the functions of the Ukraina Society?

The Ukraina Society (Association for Cultural Relations with Ukrainians Abroad) was established in 1960 upon the initiative of a group of writers, artists, scholars and creative unions as a voluntary public organization. Among its founders were composer Levko Revutsky, poet Maxim Rylsky, Academician Ivan Krypyakevich, writer Yuri Smolich.

The aim of this organization is maintaining cultural contacts with all Ukrainians living abroad regardless of their political and religious convictions who wish to uphold ties with the land of their forefathers. The Society provides these fellow countrymen with detailed information concerning the life of the Ukrainian people.

The Ukraina Society fruitfully cooperates with Ukrainian communities in the USA and Canada, maintains permanent ties with Ukrainian clubs in Western Europe, Australia, Latin America, with many universities, editorial offices, publishing houses, libraries in capitalist countries.

Among the society's guests are people of different political views — workers and businessmen, farmers and scientists, students and clerks, and they are always welcome here.

In 1987—1988, the Ukraina Society established contacts with the Ukrainian communities in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, and concluded with them long-term agreements on cultural cooperation.

The Society's activists always participate in art undertakings by friends of the Soviet Ukraine abroad. For instance, participation of Ukrainian stage performers in the Ukrainian Day in Arrow Park, Carpathian-Russian Festival near New York, Folklorama, Mosaic and Folkfest in the Canadian cities of Winnipeg. Vancouver and Regina have turned into traditional events. Every year, upon the invitation of foreign public organizations, universities and city mayors, the Ukrainian artists, writers, painters, teachers and public figures go abroad.

Lately, the Society also acts as a mediator between the businessmen of Ukrainian origin and foreign-trade organizations, industrial works and coops of the Republic.

The Society publishes two newspapers: Visti z Ukraini (in Ukrainian) and News from Ukraine (in English) which are subscribed by readers in 70 countries. It also issues brochures describing different aspects of life in the Republic.

Besides its central office in Kiev, the Ukraina Society has 16 regional branches headed by prominent men of culture and public figures of Ukraine. It includes sections of medicine, education, literature, music, fine arts and others. Their staff receive foreign tourists and delegations, organize meetings of foreign businessmen with their Soviet colleagues.

Are there any direct ties among Ukrainian firms and Western companies?

The Law on the Socialist Enterprise specifies, among other things, the relations among the Soviet enterprises and their foreign counterparts. In particular, they can independently cooperate with enterprises from the CMEA countries, that is, conclude agreements, create mixed groups of specialists and joint enterprises with them, etc.

As far as ties with the companies of capitalist countries are concerned, they are maintained through scientific and technical cooperation and creation of joint enterprises as well.

A Soviet firm or enterprise which exports a large part of its products has the right to direct export-import operations and create, to this end, their own foreign trade firms. For instance, three Kiev enterprises made use of this right, among them the Kiev machine-tool engineering amalgamation.

In order to conduct import-export supplies, such enterprises create the fund of foreign currency obtained from export sales.

Business relations with Bulgaria are a vivid example of such contacts being maintained now by some 600 Bulgarian and Ukrainian enterprises. Academic institutions of the UkrSSR Academy of Sciences dealing with the problems of electric welding, foundry, superhard materials, cybernetics establish the joint Soviet-Bulgarian enterprises. In 1987, the Agreement was signed in Sofia concerning creation of joint engineering center on the basis of the Kiev institute for foundry problems. Conclusion of such agreements is a frequent practice today.

There also exist direct production relations among Ukrainian and Polish enterprises and firms, for instance, between the Odessa heavy machine-building plant

and the Warsaw mechanical equipment works. The Mielec aircraft building plant and the Kiev aircraft design bureau named after O. Antonov have set up the joint group to design a new type of the plane with high lifting capacity which will be used in agriculture.

Many Ukrainian industrial enterprises and firms establish direct ties with companies from capitalist countries as well. For example, in 1987 the agrofirm

Delegation of French trade unions in Kiev

"Zorya" from Rovno Region signed the long-term agreement with the US company "Pioneer overseas" from the state of Iowa on joint production of quick-maturing varieties of corn. Due to this cooperation, the Soviet Union will get 2. 5—3 mln tons of corn. The American company will get 46.5 percent of profit. The firm is also planning to open in Austria the restaurant with Ukrainian cuisine.

How do Ukrainian cities maintain contacts with their twinned cities abroad?

The twinned town movement symbolizes the people's aspiration in many countries to develop contacts with their friends who live on different continents, to live in peace, promote mutual understanding, cooperation and cultural ties.

The Ukraine's public takes an active part in the activities of the United Towns Organization. The Association on Relations among Soviet and Foreign United Towns is a member of this Ogranization. In addition to the towns of other Union Republics, it involves 2 Ukraine's regions, 31 cities and 2 districts of Kiev united with 76 administrative units of 25 capitalist and developing countries.

Improvement of international situation, particularly the USSR-US relations, stimulated the twinned-cities' movement. In 1987—1988, friendly contacts were established between Vinnitsya and Peterborough (Great Britain), Odessa and Saloniki, Kherson and Freetown (Sierra Leone), Kiev and Chicago, Kharkiv and Cincinnati, Chernivtsy and Salt Lake City (the USA), etc.

The Ukrainian cities and their partners abroad carry out the constant exchange of delegations, art groups, films, exhibitions. The Days of Soviet towns abroad have become a frequent event.

For a long time, Kiev is united with Bratislava, Leipzig, Cracow, Florenze, Tampere, Kioto, Toulouse, Romenville, Chalette-sur-Loing. Here are a few examples of such fruitful cooperation.

May, 1984 was marked with an outstanding event in the history of partnership between Kiev and Tampere (Finland) — the 30th anniversary of concluding the agreement on twinned sity relations. Both cities regularly exchange delegations, groups of students, workers, artists and athletes. On the occasion of that jubilee, the Days of Tampere in Kiev and the Days of Kiev in Tampere (1985) were held. Kievities offered their friends in Finland to watch special TV program about life in Ukraine.

Strong partnership exists between Kiev and Kioto (Japan). Business contacts are maintained between the staffs of the 23d clinical institution named after M. Kalinin and the Mikami hospital, the Kiev Choreographic School and the Kioto Ballet School named after N. Teradi. A Japanese public gardens have been laid on Kioto street in Kiev. Its main attraction is the memorial sign of Kioto in the form of pagoda presented to Kievities by representatives of this Japanese city.

Friendly ties between Kiev and Toulouse (France) are featured by exchange of experience in the fields of town planning, environment conservation, purification of drinking water, exchange of cultural delegations.

The partnership between Kiev and Florence get expanded as well.

Romenville and Chalette-sur-Loign, environs of Paris, are united with Darnitsya and Dniprovsky districts of Kiev. They exchange delegations and artistic groups. French children often come to rest in the pioneer summer camps in the outskirts of Kiev. Young people from France come to study at the conservatoire, the Institute of Culture and Choreographic School.

In 1987, friendly twinned ties were established between Kiev and Munich (the FRG).

The united towns movement has bright prospects and enjoys a great support in Ukraine.

What functions does the Sputnik Travel Agency perform?

Sputnik, the Bureau of International Youth Tourism, has been functioning in each Union Republic for over

20 years. It has branches in some 200 Soviet towns and cooperates with 500 youth tourist, educational and sports organizations in 80 countries. The Bureau is a member of quite a few international ogranizations for youth and students exchange.

The Ukrainian Youth Tourist Bureaus having 50 Sputnik branches take a prominent place in international tourism. 1.5 million young people make use of their services.

Meeting of peace campaigners in Kiev

Sputnik also organizes the trips of the Soviet young people abroad. For example, young workers from Lviv frequently visited the USA and Canada in recent years, and a number of amateur youth groups from Ukraine toured Canada.

The Intourist Travel Agency, one of the largest tourist companies of the world, is at the service of foreign tourists and organizes the trips for Soviet citizens abroad.

Over 6 million people from some 150 countries annually come to the Soviet Union. Many of them come to Ukraine as well.

Has perestroika changed in any way the established order of the Soviet citizens' trips abroad?

Judge for yourself. In 1988, 160,000 residents of Ukraine went abroad on personal business.

All limitations on the trips to the Western countries (Israel, in particular) by invitations have been remo-

Ukrainian Canadians from Regina in Poltava

ved. However, there still exist certain restrictions in this field concerning the persons who have had access to state secrets.

Emigration from the USSR somewhat increased, though the number of people coming to capitalist countries to live there permanently is limited by the authorities of those countries.

The rules concerning trips abroad get constantly renewed, the new laws in this field are worked out aimed at further development of humanitarian relations with other countries.

* * *

We have answered here some typical questions concerning social and spiritual life of the Ukrainian people, and hope that the dialogue with our readers abroad will continue since this topic is really inexhaustable.

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(На английском языке)

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